

Green Lane site closure will save up to £500k a year

POLICE TO VACATE HQ BY YEAR'S END

Report by Craig Hughes

OFFICERS are set to move out of Walsall police station by the end of the year, during the first phase of closing the main town centre base.

Some teams are poised to relocate from the current HQ to the council Civic Centre by December with the rest to the Bloxwich station by next summer.

West Midlands Police revealed in 2013 it was planning to close the Green Lane site in Walsall in a bid to save up to £500,000 a year maintenance. It was said then that up to 200 officers would relocate to the Darwall Street civic centre or Bloxwich, with the base in Station Street becoming the main headquarters.

Plans are now pushing ahead with some neighbourhood and partnership teams due to move by the end of the year in a move which will enable them to work even closer with council departments. The aim is for the remainder of staff to move by next August paving the way for the town centre station to permanently close.

The force has already highlighted the importance of working in partnership with other organisations such as council staff, health services and the likes of Walsall Housing Group in dealing with issues and reducing crime.

Positive

Chief Supt Jo Clews, from Walsall said: "The HQ will move to Bloxwich, optimistically in the summer if everything falls into place, however that may change. I am optimistic the move to the Civic Centre will happen before that. If we are really lucky that may be before Christmas. It is going to a really positive step. I think it is going to have huge amount of benefits, our partnerships team are one of the key teams that co-ordinate the neighbourhood sector activity."

"There is an amount of work that needs to be done at Bloxwich to open up some of the office space to take on additional staff." She added that having more staff in one place enables greater interaction.

There were previous plans for a new £13 million HQ in the town centre, initially earmarked for Hatherton Street, but these were scrapped a number of years ago. In other cost-cutting measures front desks have closed at some stations around the Black Country including Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley.

A council review of sites around the borough has earmarked the Green Lane site to be suitable for offices once the station is no longer used by police.

PET POOCH EM-BARKS ON FESTIVAL WITH PRIDE



Margaret Hackett from Oldbury and her brother-in-law Anthony Cadman from Walsall with his dog Blue outside the New Art Gallery

THOUSANDS of people turned out to celebrate Walsall Pride, with organisers labelling it 'the biggest and best' yet.

Now in its fourth year, the festival hosted a variety of performances and events including Sasha Simone, a finalist from this year's The Voice and a Lady Gaga tribute act.

The festival held different events at different venues including a cabaret marquee at The Red Lion which saw drag artists from across the Midlands perform, a dance arena at Wharf Bar featuring local DJs, a health and wellbeing area and children's arts and

crafts sessions inside The New Art Gallery. On top of this, the Lion Bar & Club in Birchills hosted a full line-up of entertainment including Britain's Got Talent performer Eva Iglesias.

Les Hurst, chairman of Walsall Pride, said of this year's event: "It was the biggest and the best, absolutely fantastic. It was trouble free and just really great. There were lots of families there and lots of people from ethnic backgrounds having a great time, which is what pride is all about."

"More than 4,000 people attend on Satur-

day and some of the venues were full to capacity. Lloyds bank in Walsall dressed up in pride clothes without asking which was really great of them."

"Sasha from The Voice was absolutely fantastic. Lots of local artists played as well and pride has proven to be a great step in the past. "Walsall Council flew the pride flag after four years of asking which sends a great message to the people of Walsall."

"We have always said that message of pride is really simple and it is about breaking down boundaries."

REVAMP

Crossings included in £180,000 works

PEDESTRIAN crossings are being earmarked next to Barr Beacon under safety improvement plans worth almost £200,000.

Walsall Council bosses have identified new crossing points at Beacon Road, Bridle Lane and Pinfold Lane as part of a review. There is a heavy flow of traffic around the landmark Barr Beacon site and work would be expected to cost a total of £180,000.

It has been put forward as a priority project by the council subject to securing funding.

SADDLERS

Countdown to big clash with Chelsea

WALSALL Football Club bosses are bracing themselves for a six-figure cash boost after landing a 'wonderful' cup draw against Premier League champions Chelsea.

Excitement is already building for Capital One Cup third round tie at the Banks' Stadium on September 23, following the side's victory over Brighton and Hove Albion last Tuesday. As well as picking up the £7,000 prize money for reaching the third round for the first time in 13 years, the club will pick up 45 per cent of the ticket sales.

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PLANNING

Car wash may be told to shut down

A CAR wash in Willenhall faces being closed down amid concerns over noise and nuisance.

Walsall Council is looking to take enforcement action against the operation at Alvar Business Park in Straight Road, claiming it was launched without planning permission. A report to the council recommends the washing and valeting of vehicles stop within a month.

Head of planning David Elsworth says the activities result in 'noise and nuisance' for nearby residents. "It is considered that the operations cause harm to the area." A decision will be made by planners today.

INSIDE

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£500 boost for facilities at school



Sarah Summerton, Ellen Greenwood and Sally Miner with pupils

CHILDREN at a Pelsall primary school will return to a host of new facilities after their break, following a £500 cheque awarded to refurbish its play area by developer Walton Homes.

Ryders Hayes School, in Gilpin Crescent was presented with £500 by the developer after making a wish when the business launched its 30 Wishes campaign earlier this year. The 30 Wishes initiative marks 30 years of house-building for the business, and will see Walton Homes grant wishes to organisations and those in need over the next 12 months.

Ryders Hayes School wished for a donation towards much needed equipment in order to refurbish the play area for their reception class, and the £500 awarded by the company has provided pastel paints, picnic tables and a 'mud pie table'.

Head-teacher Sally Miner said: "We couldn't believe our luck. We saw the campaign and thought it was a great idea but didn't expect to be selected. We have already started to buy equipment for the pupils to enjoy upon their return to school, and we look forward to adding to our supplies." Sarah Summerton,

sales director for Walton Homes, says: "Having built houses across the West Midlands and beyond for 30 years we really do feel part of the community. To herald this landmark anniversary, we wanted to give something back, investing in and rewarding worthy causes like Ryders Hayes School playground.

"We feel it is a special way to celebrate our anniversary and build heritage within the communities that we have worked with over the past three decades. I look forward to visiting the school when its new playground is complete."

7,839 drivers fined for speeding on M6

ALMOST 8,000 drivers have been fined for breaking the 50mph temporary speed limit on the M6 – but hundreds escaped punishment due to faulty cameras.

The restrictions have been in place between Junction 10a for the M54 and junction 13 for Stafford since October 2013.

Highways England is carrying out its £87.5 million Smart Motorway scheme along the stretch to improve safety.

Between the start of the works and June this year, a total of 7,839 drivers have been fined for breaking the limit, a Freedom of Information request has revealed.

But it has also emerged that in January, February and March this year no fines were issued because there were technical issues with the average speed check cameras.

Drivers caught breaking the speed limit were given £100 fines, generating a whopping £7,839,000. Many will have faced further sanctions including penalty points, prosecution through the courts and requirements to attend speed awareness courses.

Staggering

A breakdown of the fines given out shows huge variations but on average 461 drivers were caught per month – around 15 people a day. January 2014 was the worst month with a staggering 1,046 fixed penalty notices handed out.

Police stated that faults with the cameras may have also accounted for months where there were a low amount of fines such as September 2014 when just nine were issued.

A spokeswoman from Staffordshire Police said: "There will always be some variation in the number of offences detected month to month due to variations in vehicle volumes and flows.

"However some of the larger variations are likely to be due to periods when the cameras were not operational.

"This could be due to a number of factors including maintenance work such as relocation of equipment or re-calibration as well as technical issues.

"We do not have any specific records in relation to the reasons for operational down time."

Siblings make mark with badges



Paige Coley, aged nine, and her brother Jacob, with the badges they made at Walsall Leather Museum

FAMILIES turned out in their droves to Walsall Leather Museum for a day of fun.

Hundreds of people packed into the museum for the latest family fun day of activities – despite the miserable skies and scattered showers on Bank Holiday Monday.

The event included puppet shows, circus acts, face painting and walkabout entertainers, drawing the summer of attractions at the museum to a close.

Badge maker Freya Cox was also on hand throughout showing

youngsters how to turn their badge designs into reality.

Entry to the museum was free although there was a small charge for some of the activities which went to museum proceeds.

And organisers of the event hailed it another huge success.

Francesca Cox, assistant curator at the museum, said: "It was a hugely successful event and it was great to see so many families here. There's been a great atmosphere throughout the day with hundreds turning up. I think we gave a lot of

people something to do and enjoy rather than stay indoors and watch the rain.

"We usually hold our fun day every Easter and Summer and this event has meant we've had a great ending to our summer programme this year."

The museum, which opened in 1988, tells visitors through exhibitions and events the story of the Walsall leather trades and the rise of Walsall from an obscure Midlands town into an international saddle-making centre.

Boys' images downloaded by man, 54, near 7,000

A MAN gave police a hard drive and memory stick containing thousands of indecent pictures of young boys after discovering that officers had raided his home.

In total Philip Kirk had downloaded 6,068 still and 773 moving images although they were all categorised as being among the least graphic pornography. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 54-year-old was at work when police swooped on the address in Cannock Road, Willenhall on March 21 last year after being tipped off that somebody living there had been buying DVDs of young boys from Canada, said Mark Phillips, prosecuting.

Officers searched the house and left with computer equipment and DVDs while arranging for him to attend a local police station at a later date for interview during which he handed over the items police had not found that contained most of the images featuring boys as young as nine.

Mr Stephen Cadwaladr, defending, explained: "He gave them around 6000 of the images." Kirk, who had no previous convictions and has since moved to Walsall Road, Bridgtown, pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing indecent images of children and four of downloading indecent photographs of children.

The defendant was given a three-year community order under supervision and ordered to attend the sex offender work programme. He was also made the subject of a 10-year sexual harm prevention order by Judge Martin Walsh.

Community base land homes bid

THE site of a former community base in Walsall is being earmarked for residential use in a bid to regenerate the land.

Dartmouth House was demolished last year after community services were moved to a new site situated in New Forest Road.

A review of the land in Ryecroft Place has been carried out by Walsall Council and it is considered suitable for housing development.

Campaigners had tried to save Dartmouth House but council bosses said almost £300,000 would have been needed on repairs and maintenance which were unaffordable.

Councillor Pete Smith said the land should be used for bungalows or sheltered accommodation to fit in with the rest of the area.

Ring road delays for maintenance

MOTORISTS will face delays on the main Walsall Ring Road during maintenance works next week. Lane closures will be in place between the Arboretum junction and Bridgeman Street from September 7 to 11. Work will be done between 8pm and 6am.

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Chief vows to protect those most vulnerable

PROTECTING the vulnerable and reducing anti-social behaviour are among the priorities in Walsall, a new police chief has said.

Chief Superintendent Jo Clews, who has recently taken up the role in the borough, added tackling violence and domestic abuse would be key.

His career has also included time as a Sergeant in Wolverhampton and working within CID. She insisted working in partnership with other organisations such as Walsall Council, health service and likes of Walsall Housing Group was important in dealing issues. This involves support and helping to determine why some criminals offend – which could range from substance misuse or struggles of getting into work.

Ch Supt Clews said the focus was around protecting the vulnerable people in the communities. This includes protecting them from violence, offences such as domestic abuse, to ensure the safeguarding of children.

“A huge priority is to protect the vulnerable people in our community,” she said. “A lot of that is around working with partners, managing offenders trying to divert them away from crime.”

It comes in the light of big funding reductions which means West Midlands Police is being forced to make cuts in a bid to save tens of millions of pounds in the region. It has seen a reduction in staffing levels.

But Ch Supt Clews said: “What we are focusing on where is the greatest threat, need and vulnerability.”

Former mayor backs hall bid

A REVAMP of Walsall Town Hall to improve facilities and boost bookings has been backed by the town's former Mayor who called for improvements. Walsall Council chiefs are looking at a makeover worth up to £1 million to host more major gigs and weddings.

Councillor Pete Smith raised concerns over the state of the Leicester Street building which opened in 1902 after a concert was hosted by Noddy Holder in aid of his charities.

He said: “Older generation citizens, as Noddy quite rightly confirmed, recall the days when Walsall Town Hall was buzzing every weekend with popular gigs, shows and concerts. I have increased confidence that the council's leadership has the vision to bring this about.”

Travellers move onto club land

TRAVELLERS have set up on land near to Walsall Football Club.

Caravans have moved on to privately owned land in Bescot Crescent as the town continues to be hit by illegal settlements.

MP hits out at access for assessment



The Capita offices in Walsall

DISABLED people are struggling to get into an assessment centre for disability benefits – with room entrances too narrow for wheelchair users and applicants being asked to climb stairs, an MP has claimed.

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz has written to the chief executive of Capita, Andy Parker, over concerns about the Personal Independent Payment offices for Capita in Walsall town centre. She said some rooms at the base in Lower Hall Lane were not wide enough for disabled people and was ‘alarmed’ applicants were being asked

to climb upstairs to get to consulting rooms.

Ms Vaz raised concerns that it could be taken as evidence against them when making a claim.

Among her concerns was an access ramp at the front of the premises which she said was very steep.

But Capita has claimed it had worked with organisations for disabled people to make sure all of its centres had ground floor consulting rooms and step-free access.

Ms Vaz said: “A building where PIP assessments are undertaken should

be a model of accessibility, not a challenge for those who use the building most. I hope that Capita will urgently address the concerns raised.”

She said she had sent the letter after constituents had told her that the disabled access toilet and the entrances to the consulting rooms are too small for wheelchair users to access. She added: “I also understand that the access ramp at the front of the building is very steep. I was alarmed to be told that PIP applicants are being asked to climb stairs to consulting rooms.”

Driver who fell asleep at wheel is jailed for year

A DRIVER who fell asleep at the wheel and smashed head-on in to an elderly couple's Mercedes has been jailed for a year.

Brian and Doreen Fox were badly hurt when Declan Gibson's Seat Leon ploughed in to them on the main A460 in Essington.

The couple's nearly-new £8,000 car was written off, with 72-year-old Mrs Fox trapped inside. Gibson, aged 22, tried to run off but was pursued by other motorists who had stopped at the scene, Stafford Crown Court heard.

Gibson, of Waddens Brook Lane, Wednesfield, admitted two charges of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and was locked up for 12 months.

Judge Michael Chambers QC told him: “You knew you were tired, as you told the probation officer you had stopped for 10 minutes for tiredness, but I'm afraid you continued thereby taking a significant risk for other road users.”

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said the crash happened on November 1 last year, just after dark.

Ulcerated

Mr Fox, 74, was driving with his wife as passenger when they saw a car come on to their side of the road and collide head-on.

Although hurt, Mr Fox got out and was concerned for the other driver, Gibson, who admitted it was his fault and he had fallen asleep but then ran off, the court heard.

Firemen had to cut Mrs Fox free from the wreckage by taking off the door. She suffered two cuts to her legs, which later ulcerated and was covered in bruises. Her husband had a fractured sternum and breast bone and had difficulty breathing. In a victim impact statement, Mrs Fox said the crash had restricted her movements significantly and she had to have a blood transfusion. She now has no feeling in her upper right leg. Her husband said he had been affected psychologically as well as physically.

Mr Neil Gerrity, defending, said Gibson did not accept that he had been apprehended by members of the public.

“He immediately admitted responsibility for the accident. People did go after him, he returned to the scene, not kicking and screaming, he was not under restraint,” Mr Gerrity said.

“His remorse for what happened, his sorrow and guilt at the injuries is genuine.”

Cricket club hit by vandalism



Arshad Nawaz from Walsall Young People's Federatopm Cricket Club, takes a look at the vandalism on the covers for the pitch, which took place over the bank holiday

VANDALS have torn equipment apart and daubed it with graffiti at a historic cricket club.

The covers used to protect the pitch ahead of bad weather were slashed at Walsall Young People's Federation club over the bank holiday weekend.

Volunteers discovered the damage worth up to £6,000 at the ground off the Walsall Arboretum Extension on Sunday morning.

Yobs had daubed the covers with writing highlighting an area

of Walsall, drew a swastika symbol, and ripped the cover which had taken the club 15 years to get funds to purchase. It is the latest attack at Walsall YPF which dates back to 1875. Around a decade ago its pavilion was targeted in an arson attack and needed to be rebuilt. The club has two senior teams who compete in the Staffordshire Cricket Championship and two youth sides.

Secretary Arshad Nawaz described those responsible as the

‘lowest of the low’. He said: “We left the club at 9pm on Saturday, we put the covers over the wicket to stop the rain getting on there for the Sunday game.”

Mr Nawaz, who has been involved for 25 years said they had waited a long time to get the equipment and needed funds to improve security. We have been waiting 15 years to get to the stage where we can have covers.”

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 101.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solar power bid set for refusal

PLANS for a solar farm are poised to be rejected amid concerns over the impact on green belt land. A site at Cottage Farm in Aldridge is earmarked for the project but councillors are recommended to throw it out today.

A wind turbine was previously turned down on the land off Bosty Lane and the new proposal is for ground mounted solar panels for electricity production along with associated equipment. Inland Waterways have raised objections to the application over the visual impact next to the Daw End branch canal.

Health issues on the agenda

RESIDENTS can find out more about health issues during an AGM being held today. The Walsall NHS Clinical Commissioning Group are hosting the event at the town hall. The CCG is responsible for commissioning hospital, community and mental health services for the people of Walsall.

They are also responsible for monitoring how well these services are provided. Dr Amrik Gill, chairman at NHS Walsall CCG, said: “I'd like to invite local people to come along to our AGM and find out more about health services in Walsall.”

Darlaston club revamp agreed

A REVAMP of an historic non-league football club's ground in Walsall is poised to go-ahead despite objections.

Stands to cater for up to 200 spectators are being planned at the new home of Darlaston Town (1874).

The club was formed last year after the collapse of the 141-year-old Darlaston Town and now plays at Bentley Leisure Pavilion. Bosses have long-term plans to build four stands at the site in Bentley Road North and lodged an application with Walsall Council.

Warning on pets getting sunburn

A LEADING vets group has warned pet owners of the dangers of too much sun for their animals. White Cross Vets which practices in Bloxwich, say sporadic summer weather poses a risk to sunburn and heatstroke.

There is still a risk of sunny spells and specially formulated sun cream may be needed for pets with fair skin or very thin coats. Practices have already treated a number of pets this year that have been over exposed to both the sun and excess heat.

Talon-ted group

A TRIBUTE band to country rockers the Eagles will be performing at the Banks's Stadium next month.

Talon will be at the venue in Walsall on October 31. Tickets are £35 including a show and three course meal with doors opening at 7pm. For details call 01922 651416.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW will the collapse of the stock market in China affect us? According to the experts, your energy bills could get smaller. Petrol could get cheaper. Mortgage rates could stay low for longer. Funny sort of crisis.

THE master of the one-liner, Milton Jones, is telling audiences at the Edinburgh Festival: "I come from a family of failed magicians: I've got two half-sisters."

I SMILED at a feature in one of those "Your Money" supplements in which a couple, both aged 42, wanted advice on how best to save for their "gap year" treat. It is to be a round-the-world trip, with their daughter who is now aged two, when mum and dad are 60. The financial gurus duly gave their advice on stocks, shares and Isas. And not one of them raised the question every parent was surely shouting at the page: What sort of 20-year-old girl will be seen dead with her aged parents on a globe-trotting jaunt? The two-year-old moppet you know and love today will be nothing like the self-willed woman 18 years away. Spend the money now.

THE musical Les Miserables had its C4 premiere a few days ago, starring a galaxy of fine singers, and Russell Crowe. And while it is all very moving and stirring, does anyone honestly have a clue what's going on? We are told that the new king is unpopular and life is grim but there is not a single line to explain why folk were prepared to die in the 1832 June Rebellion. The conflict sprang from an unholy mix of



far away. . ."). Why are Les Miserables so damn miserable? We should be told.

SEPP Blatter insists: "The institution (Fifa) is not corrupt. There is no corruption in football. There is corruption with individuals. It is the people." I am reminded of the industrialist who declared his factory was unfairly blamed for polluting a lake when the pollution was actually caused by all those dead fish.

AMID the furore over the Met Office losing its contract to supply the BBC with weather information, my vote goes to whoever can hold our attention. There is something very strange about weather forecasts, especially on the radio. No matter how hard you try to concentrate, no matter how eagerly you listen out for your own specific region, after a couple of sentences, the bulletin goes all mumbledeyumblededeewobbledood and the next thing you hear is: "Finally, for north-west Scotland." Time after time.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tips may open more to tackle dumping

TIPS could soon be open all week in Walsall due a rise in fly-tipping across the borough. Walsall Council is looking at working with a private firm to offer services seven days a week at Aldridge and Bloxwich.

It comes after hours were scaled back at the sites due to budget cuts, with Aldridge closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Bloxwich Thursdays and Fridays. Shorter opening

hours from 9am to 5pm rather than 8am to 7pm were also introduced earlier this year under the cost-cutting measures.

The news comes as it emerged fly-tipping cost the council almost £240,000 in 12 months – a rise of £30,000 from the previous year.

Council leader Mike Bird said not having the tips open had impacted on fly-tipping. "There is no doubt it

has," he said. "One of the reasons I believe is because we are closing tips two days a week. We are looking to re-tender at the end of the year and within that tender discussion will be the option to look at opening seven days."

When the changes to opening days and times were introduced in the spring, there were regular queues building outside the site in Bloxwich.

Some people were said have been waiting up to 30 minutes to deposit their rubbish.

Latest figures show there were more than 3,300 reports of fly-tipping during 2014/15. The cost to the council of dealing with such sites was £239,396, compared to £206,311 in 2013/14. Notorious hotspots include Goscote Lodge Crescent and Slacky Lane.

Market is less than 75 per cent capacity

By Craig Hughes

MORE than a quarter of stalls are empty at Walsall's historic town centre pitch, it has emerged.

An average of just 72 per cent of stalls were taken at the 84-space market, which is due to get a £1.75 million revamp over a 12-month period.

At the council-run site in Bloxwich the average uptake of stalls between 2014-15 was even lower at just 63 per cent with Willenhall the best performing at 78.

Despite this, Walsall Council says there has been an improvement on the number of lettings at both Walsall and Bloxwich, with Willenhall remaining the same. It is hoped the arrival of Primark, along with plans for the new-look pitch, will bring in traders to the town centre.

Tony Larner, chairman of the Walsall Market Trader's Association, said: "With it being split in half it has caused a lot of problems. A lot of people have gone out of business or had to get jobs because of the movement of stalls.

Different

"Some are £300-400 down on certain days. You can move 30 to 40 yards and lose 50 per cent of your customers."

Council leader Mike Bird said: "There has been a lot of disruption while the construction of Primark was going on. We hope the market will continue to grow. Markets always attract footfall, but we have got to attract different products. We have got to attract different novelty ideas."

Figures show the average uptake of stalls at Walsall was 68 per cent in 2013/14 and 72 per cent during the last financial year.

The three-day-a-week Willenhall Market which varies from 31 to 65 stalls a day had an uptake of 78 per cent in both of the last two years. Bloxwich with 41 spaces had an average of 63 per cent lettings compared to 58 in 2013/14. Under the planned revamp, the market will be downsized to 70 stalls.

Lecturer's novel hits the shelves



Tanya Lewis, with copies of her latest book, *That Special Someone*, which has gone on sale in Waterstone's

A TALENTED college lecturer has published her debut novel. Performing Arts tutor Tanya Lewis, who writes under her maiden name Tanya Bullock, made an appearance Waterstone's in Park Street in Walsall, to sign copies of her new book called *That Special Someone*.

The story was published electronically by Blackbird Books on Amazon and Kindle last year for which she received five-star reviews. The story follows a mother, Izzie, in her quest to help her autistic daughter Jaya find love and the moral dilemma she faces in trying to protect her. Ms Lewis said: "It's a dream come true to have my first book on the shelves in Waterstone's and I'm just thrilled that readers are enjoying it." Ms Lewis has now turned her attention to writing her second novel about

an elderly couple with dementia finding love together in a care home.

The mother-of-two has also enjoyed success as a filmmaker, in which she has gained recognition receiving nominations for a Royal Television Society Midlands Award. In 2008, she directed a short drama, *Second Honeymoon*, which was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. As well as co-running the Pat the Bull Film company which makes documentaries and feature films, her film 'Disabled and Living in Walsall' won a Royal Television Society Award for best promotional film in 2010. Rachel Davies, head of curriculum for foundation learning at Walsall College, said: "This is a fantastic personal achievement for her."

Landmark church site earmarked in pub plan

THE site of a landmark former church on a key gateway into Walsall town centre has been earmarked for a pub or shop.

The Grade II-listed Mellish Road Church was pulled down in 2011 after standing empty for decades.

The now derelict site sits on the junction of Lichfield Street and Butts Road, on a main route in and out of the town centre.

An outline plan for a three-storey building to used for a doctor and dentist practice on the ground floor and a 38-bed care home on the first and second floors had been put forward. But such a scheme has not progressed and the land left standing empty.

A review by Walsall Council into the use of the land has now put forward suggestions for future use, with homes also put forward as an option.

A councillor has insisted he doesn't think shops or a pub would be appropriate or welcomed in the community.

A report to the council into potential development states: "Town centre use such as convenience retail or a pub if any issues over access could be overcome. The site may be suitable for residential as it is set back from the main road."

Councillor Mohammed Arif said: "I am not sure whether retail would be appropriate for that site in both location and parking. I don't think the residents would be too happy. This is a prime entrance into Walsall whether we would want to put retail there I don't know. We want to bring a key architectural building into use."

Service to mark Queen's record

A SPECIAL service will be held at a church in Walsall next week in celebration of The Queen's soon to be historic record as the longest reigning British monarch.

It will be held at St Matthews Church on Wednesday.

In attendance will be the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Angela Underhill and the Deputy Lieutenant, Professor Rashid Gatrad.

At around 5.30pm The Queen will surpass the record set by Queen Victoria who reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes according to calculations made by Buckingham Palace. The Queen has already become a record breaker when in December 2007 she became the longest living British monarch overtaking Victoria who died when she was 81.

Delays warning in rail bridge work

MOTORISTS are facing a month of delays along a busy route during rail bridge maintenance works being carried out in Walsall. Temporary traffic signals will be in place along Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, until September 24 between 7pm and 6am.

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Match set to kick off in memory of victims

ON Sunday a charity football match kicks off in memory of the three family members who died in the Tunisia terror attack. It comes as a fund set up in memory of 19-year-old Joel Richards has topped the £13,000 mark – prompting a thank you message from the family.



Joel Richards

The page was set up in the wake of the death of the Walsall fan, along with his uncle and grandfather, at the beach resort of Sousse.

Donations have seen the total rocket to almost £13,500 as people continue to donate in memory of Joel, Adrian Evans, aged 49 and Patrick, 78.

His 16 year-old brother Owen was the sole survivor from the family. More than 500 people have so far donated at the gofundme.com/joel-richards site and a message of thanks from the family has been posted on the page, including from Joel's mother Suzy and Patrick's wife.

The Smile for Joel and Family game will take place between Wednesbury Athletic, which supports the Team Margot foundation in honour of Margot Martini and Walsall FC All Stars. It takes place at Red Star Alma FC, Bentley Road South, Darlaston. It cost £3 for adults, £1.50 and free for under five-year-olds. Kick-off is 2.30pm.

CCTV pledge on yobs trouble

CCTV is to be installed in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour in Walsall. Police have already stepped up patrols in Harden Road, Leamore, and now planning further action.

Most recent complaints have been about rowdy youths knocking on residents windows and doors.

Sgt Jim Nixon, said: "We have increased high visibility patrols in the area. We are also obtaining funding to install CCTV. A robust approach will be taken with identified offenders."

New name hope for music troupe

A GROUP of singers is hoping to attract new members and starting a new chapter with a fresh, modern name. The Willenhall Musical Society will now be known as the Willenhall Singers.

Eileen Blakemore said they are hoping to encourage more younger singers to join the group, which practises at the Portobello Methodist Church WV13 3TD every Monday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. For more information call 01902 637246.

Mystery photo was Pelsall bike club



Dennis Marshman with the picture

A MYSTERY black and white photograph handed in to the Express & Star has been identified as a team shot of the Pelsall Pirates skid racing club – by one of its former members.

Dennis Marshman got in touch after recognising the snap last week, which was taken from the 1950s and features 14 of his teammates although he is not on the picture himself.

The 79-year-old from The Crescent in Great Wyrley said it was both a shock and a pleasure to see the photograph in the paper which harked back to a bygone era more than five decades ago.

"My son brought it around and said 'dad have you got an idea about any of these people?' he said. "I never thought I would hear about it again. We formed around 1950 and in 1953 we won the second division of the Birmingham League. We used to ride against all of the other counties, Sussex and from Middlesex.

"We had a match in Pelsall and they only allowed three of us to rise, me, Dom Bird and Alan Wright.

"But we won the match and the league so I was happy to be picked for that. There was quite a lot of interest

in us in those days, Sunday afternoon there was quite a crowd of people.

"We used to get sponsored by the local bike shop which would give us the spokes for our bikes and other bits and bobs. It was a very big thing around Birmingham."

Mr Marshman rode with the Pirates for just over four years before the club finished and he had a season with the Birmingham Lions. For much of his life he has been a miner and at one time worked down in the Wyrley pit number three with teammate Dom Bird and other riders.

Retirement home put in special measures

A RETIREMENT home in Walsall has been rated inadequate and placed in special measures after health inspectors found a string of failings which left residents at risk of harm.

Hilton Rose Retirement Home, in Broadway North, used staff who had not been properly vetted, and did not provide residents with required medicines.

Also, hygiene issues highlighted unclean communal areas and some areas which smelled of urine, a new report has revealed.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission also found insufficient staffing levels, care plans not updated and residents not protected from abuse.

Call bells were left out of residents' reach and inspectors found inadequate risk assessments and people being supported to move in ways which could cause injury. The health watchdog has now warned that if improvements are not made within the next six months it could lead to the business being closed down.

The report said: "People were not protected by the provider from potential abuse. Staff were not always sufficiently vetted for the roles they were working in to ensure their suitability to support the people living at Hilton Rose.

Compromised

"One person was working in the home without any ID or background checks having been completed and without evidence that they were qualified to complete the role they were carrying out. Another person had insufficient ID and background checks completed."

The inspectors also said people's privacy and dignity was being 'compromised' as people were using toilets with the doors left open and were left with aprons on and food down them for lengthy periods of time.

Medicines audits had failed to identify errors such as missed medicines and inaccurate record keeping. The report said: "The overall rating for this provider is inadequate. Services placed in special measures will be inspected again within six months. If insufficient improvements have been made, we will take action in line with our enforcement procedures to begin the process of preventing the provider from operating the service."

Director Helen Hampton-Cornforth said: "Everything is being put in place to put everything right so we can get a different rating next time when they come back."



With their balloons are Atiya Khan and Ariba Khan at the Walsall Mela event which featured Asian sports at Palfrey Park

They call it Mela yellow

THOUSANDS turned out for the return of Walsall Mela to enjoy activities from sports, music and rides.

It was the first time it was held since 2012 and attracted scores of families throughout the event.

The celebration in Palfrey Park on Sunday showcased the best in Asian arts, sport and culture.

There were traditional field sports such as Kabbadi and stone-lifting along with some athletics, football and volleyball tournaments.

There were family activities such as arts workshops, kite making, face painting, stalls, exhibitions and rides through the Pat Collins fun fair. The bandstand became a stage for a range of performers with music ranging from pop to Irish to classical among a lot more.

It was organised through the Caldmore Village Festival who helped to secure funding to host Walsall Mela from 11am to 7pm.

The Mayor, councillor Angela Underhill also attended and gave her support to the day. There was a brief period of rain but it was nowhere near enough to dampen the spirits of anyone.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Derelict site is backed for pub

A DERELICT former pub site in Bloxwich should be used again for a drinking hole, according to a council review.

The land of the old Butler's Arms at the junction of Bloxwich Road and Harden Road is also recommended as suitable for mixed use. Previous plans for retail units, apartments and supported living were thrown out by the council amid layout and privacy fears.

A site allocation document prepared by Walsall Council says the re-opening of a pub would be welcomed.

The old building was demolished years ago.

Tongue tie help with new service

A NEW nurse-led service has been set up for babies with tongue tie problems at a Black Country hospital.

It has been launched by Lindsey Perry and colleagues at Walsall Manor to help reduce waiting times.

Some babies are born with a tight piece of skin between the underside of their tongue and the floor of their mouth, known as 'tongue tie' and it can affect feeding.

A baby can be assessed by a health professional and if their feeding is affected they can be seen in the nurse-led service for tongue tie release.

Crackdown on cabbies in town

TWO taxi drivers had their licence revoked and others were cautioned after a council crackdown in Walsall. Enforcement action was taken against more than half-a-dozen taxi drivers in the borough over two months.

Walsall Council revoked the licence of a driver with nine penalty points and another failing to reveal their criminal convictions. The cases were taken before the council's licensing committee which deals with matters raised through the enforcement team.

Transfers within 15 minutes in decline

THE number of patients being transferred from ambulance to Walsall Manor hospital inside 15 minutes has reduced, according to latest figures released.

A total of 73 per cent of people were handed over to the emergency department at the town's hospital in the quarter-of-an-hour timescale for the month of July.

This compared to 76 per cent in June, a report to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has shown.

Venue opens up

A NEW entertainment venue for emerging performers has opened in place of a former nightclub in Walsall town centre. The MPV venue, run through the Multi-Media Arts Project Limited, has been launched in Intown where the old 5th Night Club was based, for live music, comedy and cabaret.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated." So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Mistress mischief of females and emails

IT turns out that adultery website Ashley Madison is not quite the hotbed of illicit encounters its users were hoping for.

According to data expert Anneale Newitz, most of the female profiles were registered to email addresses which ended in the name of the company. And while 20 million randy men had been fervently checking their inboxes in the hope of receiving a steamy message, only 1,492 women bothered to open their inbox.

For some reason, the blokes were a bit shy about going to trading standards.

It reminds me of the age-old scam about the company with a risqué-sounding name which advertised bargain-priced 'adult toys' by mail order. The goods never came, but all customers were sent a full refund – in the form of a cheque with the company name emblazoned across the top in large letters, most of which were disposed of.

NOW I've never really understood how 'anarchic' artist Banksy has become the darling of the London luvvies. Take away all the hype and pretentious arty talk, and, well, he's just a vandal.

Anyway, his latest wheeze is a theme park in Weston-super-Mare where the security staff are trained to be rude and inefficient, where all customers are subjected to over-zealous body searches, and where the main attractions are a man selling balloons with the words "I am an imbecile" on them, and a children's attraction offering payday loans.

One day the website crashed – which many punters thought was actually part of the experience – because six million people had been trying to buy tickets.

Well, as the saying goes, a fool and his money are easily parted. I just never knew there were so many of them around.

I TOOK advantage of the brief respite from the downpours to take a walk on Monday. After five miles in the misty drizzle, I slumped into a chair tired, light-headed, and gasping for a pint. So spare a thought for Penkridge window cleaner Mark Vaz, who last week broke the world record for running the most marathons in consecutive days. And still doing his window cleaning round.

In the last few days Mark has suffered from food poisoning, and has had to do several of his runs with his leg in bandage because of an injury he has picked up. He will soon be two-thirds of his way through his target of 90 marathons in 90 days in aid of pregnancy charity Tommy's and Katharine House Hospice in Stafford.

Unbelievably, some idiots have taken to so-called social media to deliver unpleasant and personal abuses. Can I suggest that anybody who wishes to show their contempt for these idiots does so by sponsoring Mark £5? Because I think he has earned it.



Sukhi Sandhar from Penn with the clapperboard



Setting up a fake pub is L J Greenwood from Wolverhampton



Cameraman, Ben Thompson from Stafford, filming Diabolique

Making movies in an entertaining Manor

Forget Hollywood, filming for a new horror movie has been taking place across the area. CRAIG HUGHES reports

FROM a former Olympic athlete to teachers – around 100 volunteers have been helping to shoot a horror movie using some of the most recognisable sights of the Black Country as a backdrop.

Sites across Walsall and West Bromwich have been used for The House of Screaming Death which is expected to be released next year. The cast includes Richard Buck who was part of the London 2012 games squad in the 400 metres and a range of emerging actors from around the region.

Over the last month the production team have been taking advantage of the spooky atmosphere and creaking floorboards to film from the landmark West Bromwich Manor House in Hall Green Road.

They have also been at locations across Walsall such as Park Lime Pits and St Michael the Archangel in Rushall, along with Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge.

Summer

Filming has included getting together 30 cast members, 30 people in the crew and up to 30 extras, with the cameras rolling for up to 12 hours a day.

The story involves four different tales ranging from 15 to 45 minutes long and the aim is to show the movie at festivals and at venues in the Black Country next summer.

Talented Walsall duo Dave Hastings, aged 32, a media lecturer at Stafford College and 50 year-old Kaushy Patel, a teacher from Pleck, who last year won the Best British Film category at The London Film Awards for Checking In are amongst the production team.

Other directors are Troy Dennison, 47, from Cannock, teacher Bekki Harris-Smith, 32 from



Directors, from left, Bekki Harris-Smith from Walsall and Troy Dennison from Cannock

Walsall and make-up artist Alex Bourne, 27, from Stone Cross.

The storylines include an adaptation of the ghostly Lady in Grey, Witch in the Mirror, The Vampire set in the late 1800s and Diabolique about demons and ritual sacrifice.

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of volunteers they have been able to get the camera rolling.

Among the cast and one of the few to come from further afield is Richard Buck, originally from Lincolnshire, who has retired from 400 metres sprinting to go back to acting which he enjoyed as a youngster.

The 28 year-old has swapped the track for stage boards and is due to do a master's degree course at Birmingham School of Acting from September.

He said: "I couldn't resist the call to come back to it.

"Everyone thinks it is a massive change.

"But I am trying to perform on cue and I still have to walk into the room and audition, it is like going into the qualifiers.

"Sport came along and I had almost immediate success.

"You kind of follow that and I am glad I did it, I have had some fantastic experiences.

Diverse

"It is that mental preparation that has really helped me come across to acting."

Director Troy said there had been a great response from everyone involved.

"We have had such real positive feedback, people happy to be here.

"We have had a lot of goodwill, it really is a community kind of thing.

"We are keeping it all as local as possible, local talent, local crew."



Former athlete, now actor, Richard Buck

"We have got a really diverse group of people.

"We are overwhelmed people have taken to the project there is a huge dynamic about it, a really positive buzz.

"What gets us is we haven't got the funding we would pay them if we could.

Dave said it was an opportunity for emerging talent to showcase what they can do in the acting world.

He said: "We have all these locations, have all these people here, fantastic actors and they keep getting glossed over.

Bekki added they were pleased to have been able to use the Manor House and work with lots of people from the area. "It is one of the haunting places in Britain.

"We have gone for as many local actors and crew members as we can."

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Safety at work is still paramount

RECENT figures from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) reveal that 142 workers were fatally injured against 136 the year before.

Clearly, the policies of the past five years have done little to help prevent workers being injured or killed in their workplace.

Further emphasis must be placed on inspection and enforcement.

Cuts and, tighter profit margins must not increase risk in the workplace.

When such significant figures are publicised the role of Unions must be realised.

Sentence for attack too lenient

IT is deplorable that a sexual attack on a female paramedic during her care of a patient can be treated so lightly.

The case recently reported of the attack on a female paramedic who was attempting to help a 52-year-old alcoholic man in her line of duty definitely shows this.

During the hearing the judge said the offence was grotesque and believed that the public interest would be best served if a community order was issued.

And as a result, he then issues a light, almost laughable sentence.

Can anyone honestly believe that a three-year supervision order, 60 days of rehabilitation and being placed on the sex offenders register for five years is enough to 'cure' a despicable person such as this.

I have my doubts! If this is the seriousness a judge places on an offence such as this which he called grotesque then what hope do we have?

R EMERY
Walsall

Without Union influence and, involvement in the workplace how much higher would this figure total?

The HSE claim that the UK is one of the safest countries in which to work.

Try telling that to a bereaved family. Life is never easy if a family loses the main breadwinner through a fatal injury at work. Workers deserve strong health and safety practices and, a vigorous HSE working with unions.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Labouring on with leadership contest

I AM in no way a politically-minded person, and like millions of other people have no personal interest in politics, or political parties.

When election time comes around, I decide again like millions of other voters what is the best for my family and the best for the country, and register my vote accordingly. At this moment in time, I like many other people watch the public turmoil and soul searching of the Labour Party's leadership election, a party that was formed by the working class of this country years ago, and largely represent the same.

The Government of today, that lord over the occupants seated in the plush stuffed green leather upholstered

benches, and who majestically promenade through the polished regal oak panelled corridors, with walls bedecked with historical splendour, that is Westminster, needs stern and aggressive opposition!

Without robust and consorted and thoroughly united opposition in the Westminster House, the birthplace of democracy, we will become a one-party nation, a legacy we do not want to wish upon our children, and grandchildren! That is why the Labour Party needs to heal its self-inflicted wounds and get the right results of the leadership election, the correct one!

J BARRETT
Fallings Park

That'll be a great show

ON Thursday night, August 20, my wife and I attended a performance of 'That'll Be The Day' at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

What a fantastic show, I was most impressed with the musicianship, singing and comedy. It was first class - high energy music from the bygone era of the 50s, 60s and 70s which kept everybody singing along all night for almost three hours. We've seen plenty of musicals in the West End London and this show surpassed a lot of them.

Professionally staged and executed I would recommend this show to anyone when it comes again next year. The cast and the band were among the best we have ever seen. Present day performers eat your hearts out!

I HUNTER
Willenhall

Lower fees would help

WE are all concerned at the debates about the cost of hospital parking in the region. Some months ago I was taken to the Manor Hospital by ambulance at around 11.30pm.

My husband followed by car and was the only person on the large car park. It was decided at nearly 6am that I was to stay in, so my husband went to get his car. The car park was still empty but he was charged £6 to leave. Surely most people who arrive overnight are emergencies so couldn't there be a cheaper charge?

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Relief after embankment is cleared up



Ian Shires surveys an eyesore parcel of land off Broadmeadows Close, New Invention, which has been cleaned up

A DUMPING ground for mattresses, fridges and furniture off the M6 has been cleaned up – much to the relief of residents and councillors.

An embankment in New Invention, Willenhall has been a regular target for fly-tippers over the years.

And now, following calls for action over the site, Councillor Ian Shires has worked with the Highways Agency to get the land off the alleyway between Lichfield Road and Broadmeadows Close cleaned up. Councillor Shires said the whole community was delighted it has been carried out.

"I am very pleased as it changes the

profile of the area, there is nothing worse than walking down an alleyway and seeing it," he said.

"It was an absolute eyesore, we were getting complaints about it. There was all sorts, mattresses you name it, all that has been cleaned up. There were dozens of items, there was an accumulation of things like bits of furniture, a family fridge. These are not travellers, these are local people who are just rubbishing their own area."

It had been dumped not far from the bridge off the main Lichfield Road route. It comes following a spate of issues with waste left across Walsall.

Wooden pallets, household rubbish and building waste was also recently dumped in a country lane in Aldridge.

It also recently emerged large bins could be provided on traveller-hit sites in the borough to save the cash-strapped council tens of thousands of pounds in clear-up costs.

Walsall Council is looking at the option of placing the large wheeled bins, known as euro bins, on illegal camp sites to encourage occupants not to dump mess. Travellers have already cost the cash-strapped council more than £15,000 this year in clean-ups and managing the sites.

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Terrace takeover on the menu for entrepreneurs

THE owners of a former restaurant in Brownhills are inviting would-be entrepreneurs to take over the building.

The Terrace closed down 18 months ago and the silver service restaurant was bought by SEP Properties back in March.

Bosses revealed that it is 'sitting empty' on the company's books.

However, they are now inviting business owners and entrepreneurs to submit ideas for the site.

SEP also owns the former Pied Piper pub in Cannock and is looking to do the same with that building.

Raj Patel, from SEP Properties, confirmed the restaurant on Watling Street and the pub on Pye Green Road 'could be anything' and the firm would welcome business ideas for the venues.

Portfolio

He said: "There are no plans for either site at the moment, we are still testing the water."

"They are both currently sitting on our portfolio as empty properties."

"We buy properties and rent them out we don't run the businesses, so they could be anything, we are open to suggestions."

Mr Patel added: "We would look at any interested parties and offers to see if they are viable as a business."

"Anyone who wants to approach us with an opportunity for either site, is welcome to and we will consider it."

"The sites are on the market as a business opportunity, but it does not have to be a pub or restaurant."

The popular, long-standing restaurant closed suddenly in February last year having operated under the name The Terrace since the 1980s.

Thieves ransacked the site eight months after it shut its doors, stealing property and causing damage total-



The Terrace restaurant in Brownhills which is currently sitting empty

ling £100,000. At a Wolverhampton Crown Court hearing in March it was heard police discovered a scene of destruction inside the restaurant where catering equipment, alcohol and other items had been stolen and extensive damage caused by the attempted removal of water pipes.

And when the restaurant closed it was reported some customers had been left with unspent gift vouchers.

While others were reportedly forced to scramble around to find alternative venues for special events at short no-

tice. The Marston's owned Pied Piper pub has been at the centre of a row for over a year, after locals fought to keep the pub as a community asset.

It comes after Marston's had agreed in principle to sell The Pied Piper to developers HB Villages, which wanted to replace the building with 16 new flats for young adults with learning difficulties.

But the plans were turned down by Cannock Chase Council's planning committee last year.



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10 Council chiefs offer to meet with family

The Chronicle Thursday, September 3, 2015

COUNCIL bosses have said that they are willing to meet with the family who claimed they were threatened with prison if they did not send their children to school.

Tracy Foster, aged 44, and husband Paul, 47, from Great Barr, who have nine children, claim they were told to 'drag' their children into class by Walsall Council.

The Fosters were summoned to an education attendance panel hearing by Walsall Council in June after two of their children, Faith, 15, and Lenny, 12, each missed 15 days off school

last year because of illness. As well as Faith and Lenny the couple have Freddy, two, William, three, Stanley, six, April, seven, Eily, 10, Grace, 16, and 18-year-old Stephen.

They were told the absences meant they were failing in their legal duty to ensure their children regularly attended Barr Beacon School in Aldridge.

Discuss

Councillor Chris Towe, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for learning, insisted the council would be more than willing to meet with the family to discuss matters further.

He said: "We want to work in part-

nership with the family. We have offered to meet with them during the summer holidays. We will support any parent who has an ill child, we totally understand that children can be ill from time to time just like adults.

"The family may believe they are being discriminated against because they have a large family but it is nothing to do with that. It is the law that a child should attend school 90 per cent of the time and us as councillors have a duty to make sure they do go to school and receive an education.

"By not going to school their life chances will be diminished, and we don't want that to happen - we want them to get the best possible start."



Tracy Foster with, from left, Grace, aged 16, Billy, three, Lenny, 12, Freddy, two, April, seven, Faith, 15, Stanley, six, and Eily, 10

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Country lane hit by flytipping



A discarded sign among the rubbish dumped



The scene of flytipping in Back Lane, Aldridge

WOODEN pallets, household rubbish and building waste has been dumped in a country lane in Walsall.

This large pile of waste has been dumped in Back Lane, Aldridge. A report was made to Walsall Council's clean and green services who are now arranging for the site to be cleared.

They have also launched an appeal for help in identifying any perpetrators who were involved in the fly-tipping.

Aldridge Central and South Councillor John Murray said the problem was rife across the borough.

He added: "It's a common problem across the borough but it does not help that the Aldridge tip is now closed two days a week. They go an fly-tip their waste." The rubbish is believed to have been dumped at the site over the weekend.

Anyone with information is asked to call the council.

Highgate may end up as site for homes

THE transformation of the historic Walsall Highgate Brewery site would be 'reluctantly' accepted if no business takes it over, a councillor has said.

Walsall Council bosses want the Grade II listed site to be used for brewing or employment use again. But an action report into the future use of land around the borough states if no viable business opportunity arises, it could lead to the site being used for housing.

By Craig Hughes

St Matthews councillor Mohammed Arif said they wanted to preserve the site's identity where possible.

"Ideally we would like to bring back another brewer to continue in that tradition. If that is not possible we want to preserve the heritage of the building, it is a listed building," he said.

"We would reluctantly accept housing if all options fail. It is in the middle of a residential area and we can't allow it to decay."

Highgate Brewery is one of the most well-known names in the borough having initially produced beer for the town's leather workers. The brewery was built in 1898 by James Fletcher and is now owned by Smethwick-based Empire Star, but

has been empty for several years. The firm said a feasibility study is to be carried out into its future use. It had been marketed for sale last year with a £850,000 price tag but has since been removed from the market pending the study. A report to the council said the optimal use for the building would be to reinstate its previous, original use as a brewery and would support such an application.

Otherwise, another employment use that would not be detrimental to the heritage assets. It added: "Only if no viable employment use could be found would proposals to convert the site to housing be considered."

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Popping off to club for Saturday night opening

A NIGHTCLUB in Walsall will take revellers back to the nineties when it opens a second venue in the town centre in a few days, with celebrity guests planned to perform.

Religion, the former WS1 nightclub in Bridge Street, opened in April. But nightclub bosses have been working for around a year to open a second venue next door, using part of the former WS1 building, in a project which will create up to 20 new jobs.

The new ground floor venue, which will be called Planet Pop, will open on Saturday.

Only over 21s will be allowed inside the nightclub. Singer and DJ Dane Bowers – who was part of R&B boyband Another Level between 1997 and 2000 before going solo, ending up partnering Victoria Beckham and True Steppers, with Out Of Your Mind, which was a number 2 hit in 2000 – will also be performing at the new nightclub on September 12.

Memories

The space has been kitted out with a cocktail bar, video screens and a back-drop of iconic images from the 1990s and 2000s will be added.

Nick Parkinson, general manager, said: "We want to bring back memories and for people to be able to let their hair down. It has been a substantial investment. We've invested a lot of time and energy."

"We've put in a cocktail bar. We've changed the structure of the room."

"There are squares on the ceiling which are video screens."

"We will also be putting in a back-drop of nineties and noughties images to give it that retro feel."



Planet Pop manager Nick Parkinson



Getting ready for the grand opening



Tina Parkinson, Nick's wife

"On the opening night we are planning to have stilt walkers and dancers on roller skates."

"Then on September 12, we have got our first celebrity appearance. Dane Bowers will be coming to perform."

Before Religion opened in April, bosses built a huge roof terrace has



Video arcade – owner Graham Pinches been created with the upstairs room built with a large stage area.

Other rooms were redecorated, a DJ booth has been added and the toilets were refurbished.

Video walls and new lighting were also been installed, along with lasers and confetti cannons.

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Tasty meal enjoyed by lunch club

Pelsall E TG

THE annual Harvest Supper on August 20 was baked potatoes with a selection of tasty fillings and side salad, again provided by EatSo of Pelsall, followed by a pick from the dessert table prepared by the committee.

A small bring and buy sale of provisions/gifts donated by members raised £44 which will be donated to Pelsall Community Association's 50th birthday fund.

The outing to Buxton and the 'Judith Mary' on August 24 took place in lovely sunny weather enabling members to spend the morning walking round Buxton's shops and Pavilion Gardens before travelling to Whaley Bridge and relaxing over afternoon tea on board the 'Judith Mary', a 72ft restaurant boat, whilst navigating the Upper Peak Forest canal to New Mills and return.

This month the Walking Group has walked in Lichfield, Chasewater and Aldridge. Walks commence at 10am each Wednesday from Pelsall Community Centre and returns to Pelsall between 12.30 and 1pm.

Lunch Club members thoroughly enjoyed a tasty meal at Newhall Farm, Lichfield Road, Cannock. Next month's will be held at Farmer Johns, Aldridge Road, Sutton Coldfield.

At the guild meeting on September 17, Cas Bailey will relate her experiences in the police force in 'If you can't stand the heat ...'

Pelsall Guild meets on the third Thursday of each

A-mazed by visit to Hampton Court



Enjoying a picturesque tour of the gardens in the Shire Horse Drawn Tram are, from left, Pauline Peace, Jean Green, Wendy McGarry and Pat Oliver

AS there was no August meeting, guild members and their friends visited Hampton Court Palace in London.

The coach left the Brownhills Memorial Hall at 8am for a full day of interest and enjoyment. Hampton Court is one of the Royal Palaces. It was enormous, covering lots of ground and beautiful gardens. It is full of history – the story of the Tudors and especially Henry VIII and all six wives.

The art gallery has some very well-known artists' work on display.

THE Rotary Club of Wednesbury resumes the regular Thursday meetings after the summer break to night (September 3) when the speaker will be Dave Lockley talking about assistance dogs.

The website shows all the

Brownhills WI

The next meeting is on September 14 at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm in the Lichfield Suite, Lichfield Road, Brownhills.

The speaker for that evening is Marlene Watson on "Black Country Humour". The ladies will also enjoy a fish and chip supper. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Mary on 01543 360890.

Regular meetings to resume

Rotary Club of Wednesbury

club's activities and members will now be considering how to bring Father Christmas to the town.

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any way is asked to contact the club via the website at www.wednesburyrotary.com or e-mail wednesburyrotary@btinternet.co.uk



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Malcolm Price, of Kinver, a former instructor, with his collection of light meters



Ernest Brooks during WWI pictured with a camera



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Focusing on camera's frontline role to record warzone exploits

RAF Cosford put on a treat for veterans who were armed with a very different weapon of war - the camera.

Photography has changed hugely since the negative development process was invented in 1835 by William Fox Talbot.

And as photography has developed, its use by Britain's Armed Forces has also changed.

Ernest Brooks pioneered the use of photography as a tool in the First World War. He was the first official photographer to be appointed by the British military, and produced several thousand images between 1915 and 1918, more than a tenth of all British official photographs taken during the war.

In 1915 the first military photography school was opened, when The Royal Flying Corps School of Photography was established at South Farnborough.

And 100 years later the work continues at

MEMORY LANE

Report by Karl Aston

the Defence School of Photography (DSOP), based at RAF Cosford, which put on a display to celebrate the centenary of that first photography school.

The Cosford exhibition wasn't open to the public, being put on solely for the benefit of ex-service personnel who had worked as photographers in the Army, Navy or RAF.

Visitors

It was also a chance for current trainees to learn about the history of military photography.

The exhibition included a recreation of an Army photographic unit from 1942, complete with two men dressed in period uniforms and a Willys Jeep.

Visitors were also able to tour the training facility and see all the rooms where the trainees are instructed, including a room

set-up like a police crime scene. Military photographers are often called to lend their specialist photographic knowledge to help the police.

A 'Centenary Room' had a timeline showing significant historical events in both civilian and military photography. That room also housed historical items, including the camera used by prisoners involved in the mass escape from Stalag Luft III in March 1943 - as dramatised in the film The Great Escape.

Another display case held a collection of Weston exposure meters, an essential for any photographer in the days before cameras became adept at measuring light.

The company was founded by Edward Weston, born in Oswestry in 1850 and the collection belongs to Malcolm Price, from Kinver. Malcolm, 70, said: "It wasn't until I researched the history that I realised he was a local man."

He said: "I started my collection of for two reasons, firstly because I still use the meters and secondly, I wanted to show the

link between Weston meters and the local area."

Stacey Mellor, the visits and engagement officer for RAF Cosford, said: "As well as celebrating the unit's centenary, we are also celebrating 50 years of the DSOP being here at Cosford."

About 400 ex-servicemen attended the event over two days, concluding with a gala dinner on the Saturday. Since its inception a year after the start of World War One, the Armed Forces photographic unit has trained about 51,000 photographers.

The DSOP in Cosford instructs members of all three forces, trains 700 each year and divides its training into two streams. The first stream is for those seeking to be dedicated photographers in the armed forces and they are trained on a professional-level 28 week course.

The other stream is for those soldiers, sailors and airmen who need to use photography in addition to performing their regular military role - and those courses last from four days to three weeks.

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THE LAST DANCE

French star Sylvie's
farewell performance
Page 19



**Into the Sunset
– Page 19**

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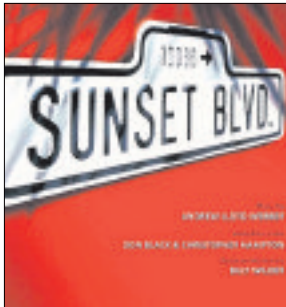
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Monday, 8pm
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staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Sunset Boulevard



Tues - September 12
The Grand, W'ton

Sunset Boulevard makes a long-awaited return to the stage this Autumn, a first for the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The show weaves a magnificent tale.
 Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Philip Solomon



Tuesday, 7pm
Robin 2, Bilston

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Regale
 Sat at 7pm
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 Call 0870 320 7000

Gin Annie Band
 Fri at 7pm
 £8.50/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Sex Pissed Dolls
 Sat at 7pm
 £10/£12
 Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Rock of Ages Experiences
 Sun at 7.30pm
 Free
 Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Music of John Martyn
 Wed at 7pm
 £12.50/£14
 Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Duran Duran Tribute + Spandau Ballet Tribute
 Thur at 7pm
 £8/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Antarctic Monkeys: Arctic Monkeys Tribute
 Fri at 12am, £7 - £11
 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Waster
 Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £6
 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

The Catapult Club
 Fri at 6pm - 10pm,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Paul Smith & The Intimations
 Sat at 7pm, £12
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

John Rossall & Harvey Ellison
 Sat at 7pm, £8
 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Abba Reunion: Abba Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Jurassic 5
 Tue at 7pm, £25
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Mac DeMarco
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £15
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

The Official Receivers
 Sat at 8pm, £12
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

The Mersey Beatles: The Beatles Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £16.50
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

Autobahn
 Sat at 7.30pm, £6
 The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, B5 4EG.
 Call 0121 632 6756

Outfit
 Thu at 8pm, £8
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

Only Shadows
 Sat at 7pm, £6
 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
 Call 0121 753 1818

Life In Film
 Wed at 7pm, £8
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
 Call 0844 870 0000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Sir Simon Rattle Conducts The Dream Of Gerontius
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £90
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

The Burley-Modern Duo - Classical Guitar
 Sun at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £5
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

Oh, What A Night
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15.50
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
 Call 01527 65203

The Barron Knights
 Wed at 7.30pm, £18.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

163rd British Open Brass Band Championship
 Sat at 10am - 7pm, £12 - £23
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Brass Band Gala Concert
 Sun at 2.30pm
 £10 - £21
 Symphony Hall
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

And Finally... Big Band
 Fri at 7.30pm, £21
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

JAZZ & SOUL

Jazz In The Courtyard
 Sun at 4.30pm, Free
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Lee Fields & The Expressions
 Tue at 7pm, £15
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

The Jive Aces
 Fri at 8pm, £15
 Artrix, Slideslow Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Moseley Folk Festival
 Fri at 1pm - 10.30pm, Sat at 11am - 10.30pm, Sun at 11am - 10.30pm, £39 - £89
 Moseley Park and Pool, Birmingham, B13 8DD.
 Call 0121 442 4499

Irish Music Session
 Wed at 8pm,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Open Mic Night
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar
 Mon at 8pm, £10
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
 Call 01785 254653

Hayes Carll
 Sat at 8pm - 11pm, £15
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

Oh Susanna
 Wed at 7.30pm - 11pm, £13
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street, Pittingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

THEATRE

Sunset Boulevard
 Tues, Wed, Thur at 2.30pm/7.30pm
 £15.50 - £21.50
 Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 429 212

Open Door
 Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm, Free
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EF. Call 0121 236 4455

The Return Of Neverland
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
 Call 01543 578762

Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat (Over 3s)
 Fri at 4.30pm, Sat at 1pm, 3.30pm, £8 - £12.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Common Wealth - No Guts, No Heart, No Glory
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 1.30pm, Thu at 1.30pm, £12 - £17
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
 Call 0121 236 4455

Pardon Me, Prime Minister
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
 The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
 Call 01562 743745

Sylvie Guillem - Life In Progress
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £75
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Mrs Robinson I Presume + The Graduate
 Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £14 - £15
 The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
 Call 0121 643 5858

King Charles III
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £30
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Simon Smith Cookery Demonstrations
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Alan Carr
 Thurs at 8pm
 £30
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Dick V Dom
 Sun at 11am.1.30pm
 £16
 Town Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Comedy Rough Works: New Material Night
 Sun at 6.45pm, £4
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy
 Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.25
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
 Call 0871 472 0400

The Comedy Club Wolverhampton
 Fri at 8.30pm - 10.30pm, £10
 Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton, WV1 4QR.
 Call 0871 222 2220

My Comedy
 Wed at 7pm - 10.30pm, £10
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

Paul Chowdhry: PC's World
 Mon at 6.45pm - 11pm, Tue at 6.45pm - 11pm, £15
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

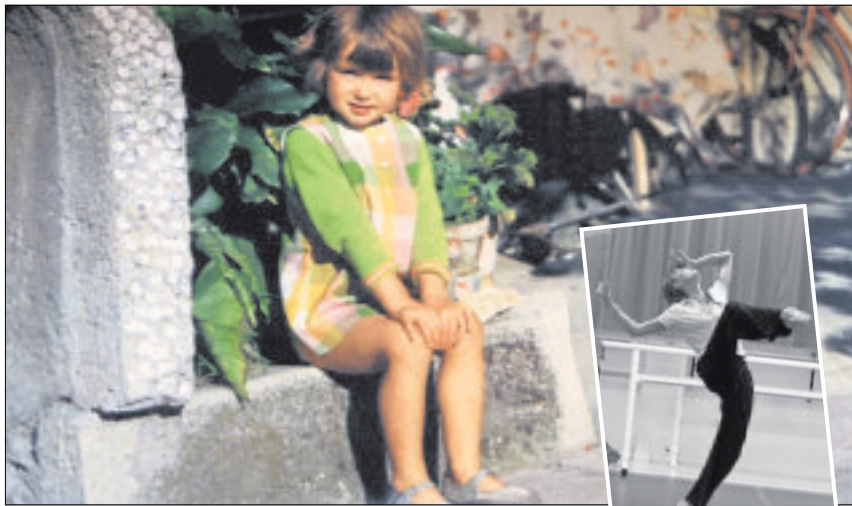
AutumnFair
 Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

Bilston Toy and Collectors Fair
 Sun at 11am, £1
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Medium Philip Solomon
 Tues at 7pm, £9/£10
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Sylvie lining up for one last dance



Sylvie Guillem as a young girl, and, inset, showing off her ballet dancing prowess

HAILED as one of the greatest dancers of her generation, Sylvie Guillem embarks on her final world tour – giving fans in the West Midlands the chance to say goodbye.

This farewell tour, called *Life in Progress*, takes in Birmingham Hippodrome on September 8 and 9, from 7.30pm each night. It marks the end of an unparalleled career spanning well over 30 years.

Now aged 50, Guillem began train-

ing at the Paris Opera Ballet School in 1977. She has performed all the leading roles of the classical repertoire and was principal guest artist with The Royal Ballet for more than a decade.

Since 2004 she has been an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells, and has forged a second, hugely successful career as a dancer in new and contemporary works. Ahead of the second Hippodrome performance, a special

fundraising reception includes a talk from dance critic Sarah Crompton about Sylvie's prolific career.

Sylvie previously amazed Hippodrome audiences as part of its award-winning International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) and funds raised from the reception will go towards commissions and projects planned for IDFB 2016. It starts at 6.15pm and tickets are £30. Book online or call 0844 338 5000.



"There's never a dull moment with Norma."

Musical first for the Grand

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical *Sunset Boulevard* makes a long-awaited return to the stage this autumn, performed by West Bromwich Operatic Society in a first for Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Based on the Billy Wilder film, the musical version includes music by Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Christopher Hampton and Don Black. It takes place from September 8 to 12 at 7.30pm each night, with a Wednesday matinee (September 9) at 2.30pm.

Silent movie star Norma Desmond is longing for a return to the big screen having been discarded with the advent of talkies. When she meets struggling Hollywood screen-writer Joe Gillis, their subsequent passionate and volatile relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion.

Because of the demands of the role, director Jason Capewell has cast two leading ladies to play Norma, Sarah Moors and Colette Forsyth. WBOS chairman Vivien Davis said: "This has been an interesting experience for us all. Scenes and musical numbers have to be separately rehearsed with each Norma, and we have watched different interpretations and reactions. It has certainly kept the company on their toes."

Sarah Moors said: "I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to play Norma Desmond. It's a part that has become iconic in musical theatre."

"This is the first time *Sunset Boulevard* has been released to amateurs and we are very lucky to be putting it on. Rehearsals have been demanding but it's been great to get stuck into such a strong acting role. There's never a dull moment with Norma."

For tickets call 01902 42 92 12, or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Chas & Dave join Rockmas festivities

TICKETS are now on sale for Rockmas 2015 at the Barclaycard Arena, featuring Roy Wood and friends.

The Christmas concert will be opened by Andy Fairweather-Low and The Low Riders.

Great collaborations in the past have seen Rick Wakeman and his son Adam join forces with an opera singer, while the Proclaimers have also supported Roy and his band on stage.

This year Rockmas welcomes Chas & Dave. There will also be a surprise special guest.

The spectacular takes place on December 6. Tickets are on general sale from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

From cat in hat to dancing grannies

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a stage adaptation of Dr Seuss's *The Cat In The Hat* this week.

This stage version, by Katie Mitchell, is being performed at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre tomorrow (Friday) from 4.30pm, followed by two shows on Saturday at 1pm and 3.30pm. Call Janine Graeme on 01902 573311 or email janine@grandtheatre.co.uk for ticket details.

Expect hilarious routines from naughty schoolchildren to dancing grannies as the Fizzogs perform at the theatre tonight (Thursday). Phoenix Nights star Barbara Nice (aka Janice Connolly) guests in *Fifty Shades of Fizzog* from 7.30pm.

Imelda singles out city for show

IRISH singer Imelda May will perform her only UK headline show of the year in Wolverhampton.

The singer, who released debut album *Mayhem* earlier this year, will perform at the Wulfrun Hall on September 24.

The Dublin singer will come to the city hot on the heels of a successful performance at this year's V Festival, where she drew an impressive crowd to the main stage before duetting with Sir Tom Jones.

She has also collaborated with some of the biggest artists in the industry. Tickets are £27.50 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

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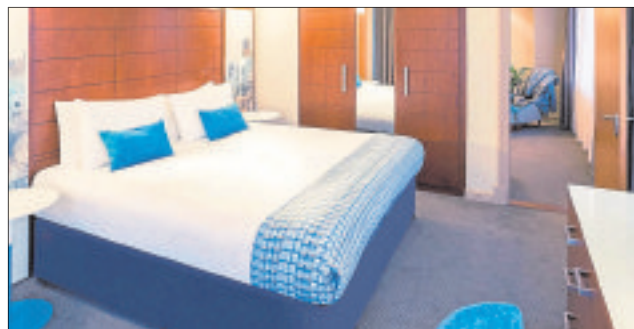
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Exterior shot of the Mercure Holland House hotel in the heart of the city



SS Brunel, a museum ship harboured in Bristol



One of the refurbished bedrooms at Bristol Holland House



Landogier Trow, one of the city's hidden treasures

A tale of two cities loaded with poetry, prose and the Plimsoll Line

By Mark Shipp

THERE are no Hard Times in this tale of two cities. But what a Dickens of a history lesson we had.

Bristol and Bath are just 12 miles apart and both are steeped in heritage – and fascinating literary connections. The former can lay claim to Robert Southey, a close friend of Wordsworth and Coleridge and who later become Poet Laureate. Coleridge himself launched the Watchman magazine in the city in 1795.

Child genius Thomas Chatterton, who died at the age of 17, was born in the city, which is also home to award-winning writer and poet Helen Dunmore.

More famous links are those of Robert Louis Stevenson and Daniel Defoe. Legend has it that Defoe based Robinson Crusoe on Alexander Selkirk, whom he met in the

Llandoger Trow in King Street. The Hole in the Wall pub, in Queens Square, reputedly forms the basis of the Spyglass pub in Robinson's Treasure Island. Both feature in a list of hidden treasures, created by Mercure and Blue Badge tourism guides.

Jane Austen, a one-time resident of neighbouring Bath, spent time in Bristol and is believed to have stayed in Clifton.

But Bristol is also famed for other key maritime and engineering achievements. Italian explorer John Cabot is honoured with a statue. He settled in Bristol in 1840, and seven years later discovered Newfoundland. SS Brunel was the world's longest passenger liner from 1845-54 and is now a leading visitor attraction and museum ship.

Samuel Plimsoll, inventor of the ship loading line which bears his name, is another famous Bristolian. Concorde, the motorbike and sidcar – and even lead shot, originated in Bristol, as did Schweppes and Harvey's Bristol Cream. Chocolatier Joseph Fry opened his first shop in the city in 1756.

Wallace & Gromit maybe famous Bristol creations, but did you know that Deal or No Deal, Casualty and Shoestring – even Only Fools and Horses were all filmed there.

All this and more my partner and I discovered when we stayed at the Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel, welcoming accommodation in the centre of a vibrant and clean city.

A recent transformation has seen its 275 rooms and public spaces renovated, all giving a nod to the city's industrial and sea-faring heritage. It also boasts 12 conference rooms, a spa and 14 treatment rooms.

We were also treated to Flavours From the Cellar, a wine concept launched by

Saturday Kitchen's Susie Barry and Peter Richards. Their offerings feature across 72 of the chain's hotels alongside other locally selected wines.

The city offers so much to do, from the oldest established market, St Nicholas, which dates to 1873, the mall at Cribbs Causeway, housing 135 top stores, and the Avon Valley Railway nostalgia steam train.

The next day, we headed to Bath, where its own literary connections should not be underestimated. Austen aside, Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley lodged there, Tobias Smollett penned part of his Expedition of Humphrey Clinker in the city and Dickens set part of Pickwick Papers there. Author Jacqueline Wilson was also born in Bath.

We finished the weekend at Bath races where, a jockey named Hardy – Cam Hardie – to be precise, scored a double.

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CHOICE



Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show (BBC1, 7.15pm)
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event, featuring performances by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter, in which this year's celebrities meet their dance partners for the first time. Among the celebrities taking part are Jeremy Vine, Ainsley Harriott, Kellie Bright, Georgia May Foote, Katie Derham, Carol Kirkwood, Peter Andre, Daniel O'Donnell and Anthony Ogogo. Last year's reigning champions Caroline Flack and Pasha Kovalev return to the ballroom for one last performance.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Live Rowing. The World Championships. **2.30** Athletics. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the session at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where the 12th round of the season is set to take place. **6.10** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz with famous faces from television comedies, including Nigel Planer and Jeremy Dyson. **7.15** **Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event as this year's celebrities meet their professional partners, and there is music by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter. **8.35** **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw. **9.30** **Casualty.** Zoe convinces a bride-to-be to postpone her wedding after the groom passes out in a condemned building on his stag do. Meanwhile, Iain faces an assault charge after an altercation with a traffic warden and Louise must try to overcome challenges as she struggles on her first day of nursing. **10.20** BBC News; Weather. **10.40** **Mrs Brown's Boys;** (R) National Lottery Update. **11.10** **Film: Meet the Fockers.** (2004) A hapless groom-to-be faces a new ordeal when he takes his staid prospective in-laws to Florida to meet his eccentric parents. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 **Film:** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (1947) **8.10** **Film:** Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **11.00** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **11.30** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **12.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** **Flog It!** (R) **2.40** **Film:** That's Entertainment! III. (1994) **4.30** **The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure.** (R) **5.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.00** **International Rugby Union.** England v Ireland. Highlights of the Test match at Twickenham, which represented the final fixture for both teams ahead of the Rugby World Cup starting on 18 September. **7.00** **Proms Extra 2015.** Katie Derham looks back at the whole series, as well as focusing on Sir Andras Schiff and his performance of pieces including Bach's Goldberg Variations. **7.40** **Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon – Natural World.** Naturalist and cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson takes a canoe journey along the River Shannon, revealing the wildlife that live in the water and along the banks. (R) **8.40** **Dad's Army.** The men of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon take charge when a large naval gun is delivered to the church hall. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **9.10** **Goodness Gracious Me Special.** One-off edition of the British-Asian sketch show, including a visit to the trenches of the First World War with Captain Brownadder. Starring Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaskar. (R) **9.40** **Cradle to Grave.** Comedy based on the early life of Danny Baker, starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed. It is 1974, and 15-year-old Danny gets a West End experience he will never forget. (R) **10.10** **Boy Meets Girl.** Comedy about a man who falls for a transgender woman. (R) **10.40** **Country Strife: Abz on the Farm.** The first winter puts Abz and Vicky to the test. Last in the series. (R) **11.10** **Film: Boyz n the Hood.** (1991) Drama, with Cuba Gooding Jr. **12.55** **Film: Black Eagle.** (1988) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.25** You've Been Framed! (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** Euro 2016 Qualifier. San Marino v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.15** **Keep It in the Family.** Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Kent and Luton go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six stars from last year's I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here face the drop as the teams decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family, and there are performances from an American human drumming act and a children's musical theatre group, singing a favourite number from Bugsy Malone. **8.15** **The X Factor.** Oily Murs and Caroline Flack host proceedings as the audition stages continue, with more hopeful contenders seek to win over the panel and secure a place at the Boot Camp. Doing so will first mean they must face the collective criticism of Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora. **9.30** **Through the Keyhole.** Pop star Kimberley Walsh, chat-show host Jonathan Ross and presenter Andi Peters make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon noses around the homes of mystery stars, rummaging through their most treasured possessions. With the help of the studio audience, the panelists use clues highlighted along each tour to work out which famous faces have agreed to hand over their house keys to the Celebrity Juice funnymen. **10.30** ITV News; Weather. **10.45** **Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest qualifying matches, including Cyprus v Wales, Georgia v Scotland, Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland and San Marino v England. **12.15** The Cube. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Show Me The Telly. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Outlaw Triathlon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** It is final dinner party in Gloucestershire and the turn of hair salon owner Chris to host an evening of home-made treats, while the guests make a discovery in the living room. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales conclude their odyssey in the Burgundy region of France, where they travel along the Canal du Nivernais, which passes through towns and villages steeped in history. The duo also visit the market town of Chablis to help with the annual grape harvest and the medieval city of Auxerre before reflecting on what the journey has meant to them as a married couple. Last in the series. **8.00** **Our Guy in India.** Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R) **9.00** **It Was Alright in the 1970s.** New series. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at the decade's TV shows, beginning with 70s-style education, including the lessons learnt from television about society and sex. **10.00** **Film: Immortals.** (2011) A man is chosen by the Greek gods to prevent a power-mad king from conquering the human and immortal worlds. Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill. **12.15** **Film: The Double.** (2013) **1.50** The Last Leg. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **5.50** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Beware! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) **11.30** **Film:** McLintock! (1963) **2.05** **Film:** Shenandoah. (1965) American Civil War Western, starring James Stewart. **4.10** Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. (R) **5.10** Elizabeth II: The Longest Reign. **6.05** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A group of residents in Guildford object when the occupant of a one-bedroom council flat decides to transform his home into a "cannabis cafe". Having turned a blind eye to their unruly neighbour's all-night parties and unwelcome lodgers, this latest development proves to be a step too far. In a small community in Wales, new arrivals cause a stir when they decide to convert a local pub into their new home, and in Lincolnshire, a young father becomes the victim of a violent assault after asking the man living in the flat below his to keep the noise down. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the second contest in the five-match series, which took place at Lord's. **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £20,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R) **9.00** **Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Southend United v Peterborough United and Chesterfield v Wigan Athletic, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two. **10.30** **Celebrity Big Brother.** **11.30** **Tattoo Disasters UK.** A drunken man who used a tattoo gun to etch names on his arms, and a needle-phobic university student whose ear piercing led to a fight for her life. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** **Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00** **Transporter: The Series.** **4.45** Access. **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15** Top Gear Vietnam Special **9.30** **Film:** Deep Impact (1998) **11.20** Family Guy **1.15** Top Coppers **1.45** Fried **2.15** Impractical Jokers **3.45** Sunny D **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** Sicily Unpacked **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.30** **Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **12.35** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** The Hot Desk: Ella Henderson **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.30 **Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **3.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.25** **Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.15** Wire in the Blood **1.40** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.50 Hogan's Heroes **12.20** The Professionals **2.25** Pawn Stars **3.20** **Film:** Destry (1954) **5.20** **Film:** Gunsmoke (1953) **7.00** Cycling **8.00** **Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.50** **Film:** The Sentinel (2006) **12.05** Cycling **1.00** The Cycle Show **1.55** Alias Smith and Jones **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Made in Chelsea LA **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** Melissa & Joey **3.00** **Film:** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Priest (2011) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.55** Bad Robots **12.25** Gogglebox **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Mindy Project **4.25** Suburgatory **5.10** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Carry On Behind (1975) **1.00** Big Fish (2003) **3.25** The Longest Day (1962) **7.00** 17 Again (2009) **9.00** The Hunger Games (2012) **11.45** The Happening (2008) **1.30** Shutter (2008) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Lady Chatterley's Lover (BBC1, 9pm)

Adaptation of DH Lawrence's classic novel about an aristocratic woman enjoying a happy marriage to her husband, until he is severely wounded while fighting in the First World War. Confined to a wheelchair, Sir Clifford Chatterley becomes more distant from Lady Constance, who embarks on a passionate affair with the estate's gamekeeper Mellors. Knowing their affair would scandalise society and ostracise them both, they strive to evade the growing suspicions of her jealous and vengeful husband.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise – Gospel Choir of the Year. **5.05** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Highlights. Action from the 12th round of the season at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where title contenders Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg and Sebastian Vettel battled for precious points.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven takes to the skies with the Environment Agency in Cumbria to discover a new line of defence in the battle against flooding, which involves restoring rivers to their original meandering routes. Anita Rani meets a rural farming community that lost its livelihood to foot and mouth disease, and the horse whisperer whose life was turned around by her love of the animals. Plus, the One Man and His Dog sheepdog trial teams are profiled, with Adam Henson visiting the Ireland squad, and Charlotte Smith heading to Scotland. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce and the team return to examine more items brought in by viewers, beginning with a visit to Plas Newydd Country House and Gardens on Anglesey. Collectibles assessed include a Victorian cane carved with an image of the Menai suspension bridge, an 18th century grandmother clock, and two giant toy giraffes.

9.00 Lady Chatterley's Lover. Adaptation of DH Lawrence's novel about an aristocratic woman who embarks on a passionate affair with her disabled husband's gamekeeper.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Kolkata with Sue Perkins. Sue Perkins details how the West Bengal state capital, formerly known as Calcutta, discarded its Colonial heritage to become a 21st-century city with a reputation for tolerance. (R)

12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Live Rowing. **2.00** Natural World: Heli-gan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **3.00** Burghley Horse Trials. **5.00** Jungle Atlantis. (R)

6.00 World's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham presents this documentary unlocking secrets behind unusual occurrences beginning with a monkey that knows first aid and a bird-killing solar death ray. (R)

7.00 World's Busiest Railway 2015. Dan Snow, Anita Rani and Robert Llewellyn go behind the scenes at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to find out what role it plays in long distance travel across India. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas, including a storage business for public schools, flat pack furniture and an invention to assist dog and horse owners.

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. A former Israeli counter-terrorism operative puts the remaining 22 contestants through their paces, including trying to remove a Land Rover from a mud pit with their bare hands.

10.00 Odyssey. Odelle and Luc's hopes of leading a quiet life in Algeria are shattered when Odelle finds herself thrust into the media spotlight after rescuing a drowning girl.

10.40 Family Guy. Peter discovers his first name is actually Justin, and takes on the new moniker to create a younger, hipper alter-ego, before holding a party.

11.05 Family Guy. Meg has fun partying with Peter when he takes her to a college, and Brian has to learn how to live in the wild after being sprayed by a skunk and forbidden from entering the house.

11.25 Family Guy.

11.45 Film: Soul Men. (2008) A soul-singing duo who have not spoken in years since falling out over a woman travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, with Samuel L Jackson.

1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holy City. (R) **3.20** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** TV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.45** The X Factor. (R) **1.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Coverage of the opening stage of the race. **4.00** Catchphrase. (R) **4.45** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Animal Mums. How young animals copy their mother to learn new skills that are vital to keep them a live in the wild, including cheetah cubs learning how to hunt, with Liesl Eichenberger of the Sanbona Reserve in South Africa explaining the different stages of hunt school. Gorilla researcher Eva Maria Luef reveals the different gestures used to beg for food from their mother and initiate play. Last in the series.

7.45 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present further coverage of the audition process, as another batch of applicants perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, as well as an arena audience of thousands, in the hope of winning one of the coveted places at the Boot Camp.

9.00 The Trials of Jimmy Rose. Jimmy sees a local drug dealer meeting Tony, an old partner in crime whose violent actions led to an increase in his sentence. When he learns that Ellie and Aaron are in trouble because of his actions, Jimmy finds himself forced to consider working with Tony once again. Jackie has an encounter with the police and is forced to lie to them, leaving her convinced that her husband cannot change. Drama, starring Ray Winstone.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Film: Notting Hill. (1999) A London bookshop owner falls for a glamorous Hollywood film star, but intrusive media interest makes for a tricky relationship. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **4.25** Location, Location. (R) **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Queen's Big Night Out. The story of VE Day 1945, when the future Queen and Princess Margaret joined revelers on the streets of London on May 8 to celebrate the end of the Second World War in Europe. (R)

8.00 Time Crashers. The celebrities experience life as servants in an Edwardian stately home in 1913, where the staff have to answer to a stern butler and a strict housekeeper. Kirstie Alley is excited to be the Lady's maid, but the aloof manner of her mistress doesn't go down well with the Hollywood star. Greg Rutherford takes his duties seriously, including emptying Keith Allen's chamber pot, and disaster strikes when housemaid Fern Britton drops some cake. The realities of life below stairs hit home as one of the celebrities is unceremoniously dismissed for refusing to carry out her duties. Presented by Tony Robinson.

9.00 Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Premiere. Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr, Mickey Rourke and Don Cheadle.

11.30 Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) A US bomb disposal team in Iraq is assigned a new leader whose reckless attitude puts all its members lives at risk. Kathryn Bigelow's drama, with Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie.

1.40 Film: Rust and Bone. (2012) **3.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Ticket to Toot. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.55** SpongeBob SquarePants. (R) **10.30** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Film: Message in a Bottle. (1999) Romantic drama, with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright. **3.20** Film: White Fang. (1991) Adventure, starring Ethan Hawke. **5.25** Film: Superman II. (1980) Comic-strip adventure sequel, with Christopher Reeve.

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.05 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Winnie Jones. A drug dealer acts casually when officers burst through his door, but cannot hide the cannabis farm which is taking up a third of his house. Plus, an operation to tackle cash-point thieves turns up some nasty weapons, the Essex interceptors rescue a man from his flooded flat, and in Lincolnshire a vocal drunk seems a little too keen to receive a full cavity search. Presented by Winnie Jones. (R)

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 20 Moments That Rocked the 90s. Cold Feet star Helen Baxendale presents a countdown of memorable moments from the 1990s, including the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the chart battle between Blur and Oasis.

11.30 Film: Alien Hunter. (2003) Scientists examine an alien artefact found in Antarctica, only to unleash a strange creature and a deadly flesh-eating virus. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader and Janine Eser.

1.10 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Beware: The Cops Are Watching. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D
7.05 Film: Shrek Forever After (2010) **8.30** World's Craziest Fools **9.00** Film: Jarhead (2005) **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.45** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **12.50** Family Guy **1.15** Top Coppers **1.40** Secrets of China **2.40** Don't Tell the Bride **3.40** Rades **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.00** Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **8.30** Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade **9.00** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **10.30** Van Morrison – Up on Cyprus Avenue **11.30** Thin Lizzy – Bad Reputation **12.30** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **1.30** The Kinks at the BBC **2.30** Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **3.00** Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.20 Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) **2.05** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.50** You've Been Framed! **4.20** The X Factor **5.35** The X Factor **6.40** Film: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **9.00** The X Factor **10.00** Film: Pitch Black (2000) **12.15** Safeworld **1.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.25** Viral Tap **2.05** Animal Practice **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.25 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.25** Lewis **4.35** Inspector Morse **6.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Northern Lights **11.30** Film: Meet Joe Black (1998) **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

ITV4

5.45 Movies Now **6.00** Prawn Stars **6.25** Cycling **7.30** Euro 2014 Qualifier. Italy v Bulgaria (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **11.00** Film: TT: Closer to the Edge (2011) **1.05** Cycling **2.05** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** Bad(ish) Robots **3.00** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Young, Free & Single **1.40** Rules of Engagement **2.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.50** Gogglebox **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Honey, I Shrink the Kids (1989) **1.00** Black Knight (2001) **2.45** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **4.30** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **6.25** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **9.00** Shutter Island (2010) **11.40** Weekend (2011) **1.40** Blue Valentine (2010) **4.00** Close



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Heart of the Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The wife of a Wall Street stockbroker finds her glamorous existence brought crashing to a halt when her husband is imprisoned for fraud. Forced to return to rural North Carolina where she grew up, she attempts to make peace with her estranged father and deal with unresolved issues surrounding the death of her mother. Drama, starring Jana Kramer. (2013)

TUESDAY
My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm
A woman unable to have children adopts her dead friend's kids, only to arouse suspicion that she killed their mother to gain a family. Drama, with Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2007)

WEDNESDAY
Deadly Pursuit, BBC1, 11.35pm
A big-city FBI agent heads into the rugged terrain of America's Pacific North West on the trail of a killer. When the criminal heads into the hills, the street-smart cop is forced to team up with a mountain guide to catch his target. Thriller, starring Sidney Poitier, Tom Berenger, Kirstie Alley and Clancy Brown. (1988)



THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery III: The Deadly Room, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2015)

FRIDAY
Rabbit Hole, BBC2, 11.05pm
A couple's happy lives are thrown into upheaval by the death of their son in a road accident. As they try to keep their marriage from falling apart, the wife forms a friendship with the driver responsible for the tragedy while the husband immerses himself in the past and turns to another bereaved parent for support. Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Sandra Oh. (2010)

New adaptation hopes to be a novel success

Here's a fact that may make some of those reading this article feel a little old – it's 22 years since Ken Russell's adaptation of DH Lawrence's controversial novel hit our TV screens.

Back then, the sight of Sean Bean's nether regions as he ran through the woods while chasing a naked Joely Richardson raised eyebrows and temperatures – and those who have seen the latest version of the tale claim it's all set to shock a new generation too.

Yes, even in an age where almost anything can be depicted on screen – or at least in Game of Thrones anyway – some people can still be surprised by what appears on a TV screen in the 21st century.

However, Richard Madden, who also stars in the aforementioned adaptations of author George RR Martin's work, is quick to allay any fears that this take is nothing but a long, sordid romp.

"Come on guys, we've got Google," he laughs. "There's nothing that's going to shock us that we're going to do in Lady Chatterley's Lover, is there?"

"All that stigma, all that smut's gone and it's actually just about these three people, which is the fascinating story of it. There's sex and passion in it, but we're not going to shock people like the book did."

The original novel was published in an abridged form in Britain in 1932; it took another 28 years before a full, unexpurgated version hit shelves, leading to an infamous obscenity trial involving Penguin Books. The publisher was found innocent, and the novel has remained in circulation ever since.

The three people mentioned by Madden are Oliver Mellors, the gamekeeper he himself plays, and his employers – Sir Clifford Chatterley and his wife, Lady Constance.

The Chatterleys are happily married until Sir Clifford returns from the First World War. Left impotent and wheelchair-bound by wounds suffered on the front line, he is a shadow of the dashing aristocrat he once was. As he becomes increasingly distant,

Constance finds herself becoming drawn to the brooding and lonely Mellors.

In 1920s Britain, the idea of a servant coveting with a member of the upper classes was shocking, scandalous and could end with them both being ostracised by their peers. Nevertheless, Mellors and Constance embark on an affair.

Sir Clifford begins to suspect something is going on, and despite his disabilities, it's clear his vengeance will be ruthless if the truth comes out.

Playing the Chatterleys are James Norton and Holliday Grainger, but it's Madden who is gaining the most attention from his participation in the project.

The trailer shows him bare-chested, and some observers have suggested the role could do for his career what Poldark has done for Aidan Turner's.

The screenplay has been penned by Jed Mercurio, whose previous credits include Bodies, Cardiac Arrest, The Grimleys and Line of Duty. A novelist himself, it would appear that Lawrence's work is in safe hands.



Holliday Grainger stars in Lady Chatterley's Lover, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Doc Martin
ITV, 9pm
New series. The return of the comedy drama about the lives of a GP and his patients in a seaside village in Cornwall. With Louisa visiting her mother in Spain to get some perspective on their marriage, Martin knows he needs to try to change for the sake of their relationship, so he endeavours to keep his promise to her to see a therapist. Aunt Ruth arranges an appointment for him with Dr Rachel Timoney, but a lifeboat training exercise causes problems for the doctor. Will he get back in time for his first session? Martin Clunes stars.

TUESDAY
Euro 2016 Qualifier
ITV, 7.15pm
Following their exploits in San Marino at the weekend, England welcome Switzerland to Wembley for their latest Group E qualifier. When the draw was initially made, tonight's visitors were regarded as the strongest opponents Roy Hodgson's men would encounter throughout the qualification process, but the reverse fixture at St Jakob-Park last September saw England claim a 2-0 win following a convincing performance, with both goals coming from Danny Welbeck. The Swiss

– who were once managed by Hodgson – are likely to include several players familiar to the Premier League among their ranks, including Xherdan Shaqiri, Valon Behrami and captain Gokhan Inler, who joined Stoke City, Watford and Leicester City respectively at the start of this season.

WEDNESDAY
Doctor Foster
BBC1, 9pm
It's tempting to turn the TV off and grab yourself a cuppa and a slice of cake once The Great British Bake Off has finished, but from this week, the smart thing to do would be to stay put on the sofa for this new drama. Written by award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett, it stars Suranne Jones as Dr Gemma Foster, a trusted GP with a thriving practice at the heart of a community. She seems to have the perfect life and be in complete control of everything thrown at her – until she begins to suspect that her husband (Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell's Bertie Carvell) is having an affair. Suddenly, Dr Foster is in turmoil, and begins an obsessive quest to unearth the truth.



Euro 2016 Qualifier, Tuesday, ITV, 7.15pm

THURSDAY
Hunted
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. In today's hi-tech world, where there is a CCTV camera on every corner and everything people do is monitored – from cash withdrawals and supermarket shopping to telephone calls and social media posts – how easy would it be to simply disappear? That's the challenge facing a group of ordinary British people in this social experiment which sees them going on the run and taking extreme measures to avoid detection. Where they go and what they do is entirely up to them – but with a team of expert 'hunters' tracking them down, the task promises to be a tough one.

Cradle to Grave
BBC2, 9pm
Continuing the 1970s-set sitcom based on the early life of radio DJ and writer Danny Baker. Things are looking up

for the future broadcaster when he has a few lessons in biology – both at school and in the bedroom. Meanwhile, his parents Bet and Fred expand their horizons with such rich new experiences as wine, a night out at the Bermondsey small retailers' dinner dance and the piece de resistance – a caravan holiday in Dymchurch. Starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed, with Laurie Kynaston as the young Danny.

FRIDAY
Ripper Street
BBC1, 9pm
Who'd be a woman in 19th-century London? If Ripper Street is anything to go by, even if you somehow manage to avoid being murdered, there are plenty of others ways to become a victim. In this penultimate episode, it's the shadowy world of illegal abortionists that's thrust into the spotlight following the death of a chemist. Dr Frayn is keen to modernise the practices at the Obsidian Clinic to help the women affected, but she shouldn't count on Long Susan for support, as she's having enough trouble keeping one of her current business ventures going. Meanwhile, Reid is still in Whitechapel, supposedly because Mathilda wants to stay, but does he have his own reasons for not moving on?



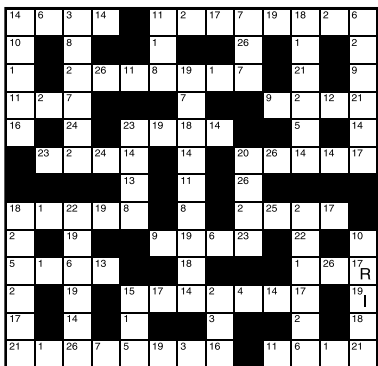
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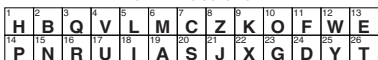
BRAIN GYM No.341

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

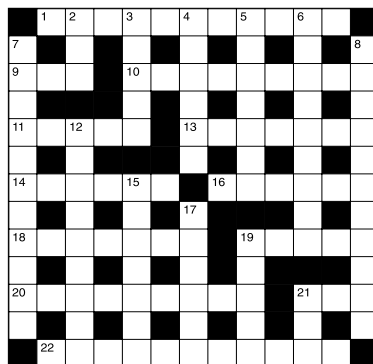
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. The end of all aspirations (5,6)
- 9. Food served at Noah's table? (3)
- 10. Pen name? (9)
- 11. Stops a baby crying with sweetmeats (5)
- 13. Just a second on earth, perhaps (7)
- 14. Start a new arrangement of beds (6)
- 16. Noah's final resting place (6)
- 18. It was plain to early American settlers (7)
- 19. It makes things less sharp (5)
- 20. Yearn for much later (4,5)
- 21. Old English port, not Scotch (3)
- 22. A candidate who fails to keep it is unlikely to get it (11)

Down

- 2. May turn up with something to eat (3)
- 3. Egg production centres (5)
- 4. A self-employed solicitor? (6)
- 5. Yet delight gives some men a mournful look! (7)
- 6. Antidote for those addicted to lying (5,4)
- 7. It doesn't take long to provide a deficiency (5,6)
- 8. Confidential sign employed by executives (11)
- 12. Start to play? (7,2)
- 15. Ran round in the commotion caused by the storm (7)
- 17. Having failed to win is punished (6)
- 19. Play with spirit on the street (5)
- 21. Lost no time putting up for election (3)



Quick Clues:

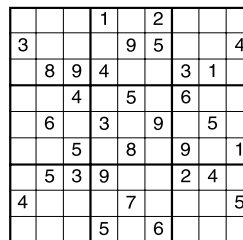
Across

- 1. Unconcerned (11)
- 9. Away (3)
- 10. Fool (9)
- 11. Rogue (5)
- 13. Knock down (7)
- 14. Anger (6)
- 16. Guard (6)
- 18. Tiny men (7)
- 19. Spot (5)
- 20. Nobody (9)
- 21. Tavern (3)
- 22. Principal part (7,4)

Down

- 2. Negative (3)
- 3. Emanate (5)
- 4. Starve (6)
- 5. Recovers (7)
- 6. Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 7. Accountancy (11)
- 8. Enterprise (11)
- 12. Haughtiness (9)
- 15. Smiled (7)
- 17. Apportion (6)
- 19. Lobby (5)
- 21. Unwell (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Rack; 3 Cabinets; 9 Special; 10 Third; 11 Mass hysteria; 13 Report; 15 Cornes; 17 Breaking down; 20 Alias; 21 Tourist; 22 Managing; 23 Play. Down: 1 Rosemary; 2 Chess; 4 At last; 5 In the long run; 6 Edition; 7 Side; 8 Light reading; 12 Mainstay; 14 Persian; 16 Picton; 18 Oriol; 19 Palm. QUICK - Across: 1 Doff; 3 Feasting; 9 Strange; 10 Means; 11 Authenticity; 13 Castle; 15 Crayon; 17 Congratulate; 20 Alien; 21 Advance; 22 Disperse; 23 Deft. Down: 1 Distance; 2 First; 4 Events; 5 Semispherical; 6 Inaptly; 7 Gush; 8 Intelligence; 12 Inherent; 14 Stories; 16 Harass; 18 Alike; 19 Bald.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Whom did Pilate set free in preference to Jesus?
- 2. In which Dickens book would you find the character Job Trotter?
- 3. In which year did the Jodrell Bank telescope become operational?
- 4. Which was the first country to grant women the vote?
- 5. In which year did Oliver Cromwell die?
- 6. What nationality was the composer Bedrich Smetana?
- 7. What is gynophobia?
- 8. Which car manufacturer made the Healey and Interceptor models?
- 9. Which London Underground line is coloured black on the network map?
- 10. What does the heraldic term mullet denote?

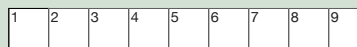
Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 1955; 2 Dame Nellie Melba; 3 George Woodcock; 4 Slowing down; 5 Ten; 6 Circe; 7 Tahiti; 8 Paris; 9 Ferdinand de Lesseps; 10 R.L. Stevenson.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 9745332 gives a large animal,
- 958124 gives a male bird,
- 456 gives a fish.



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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Breathtaking property in a tree-lined avenue



THIS traditional double-fronted detached home in Jesson Road, Walsall, lies in one of the town's most sought-after tree-lined avenues.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £695,000.

Maintaining many of its original features and charm, the property has been upgraded and extended.

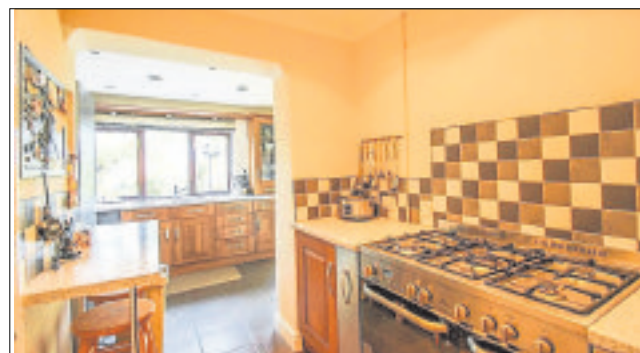
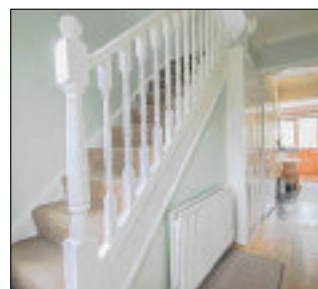
Its accommodation briefly comprises an impressive entrance hall with a feature brick fireplace and wall panelling and parquet flooring, a lounge, a conservatory, a games room, a guest cloakroom, a dining room, a well-equipped large country-style breakfast kitchen with ample light wood-effect units, a utility, a master bedroom with a dressing room and en suite shower room, four further bedrooms, a family bathroom, a separate WC, a double side-by-side garage, an extensive front garden with parking and landscaped private rear gardens.

Contact Edwards Moore on 01922 615222 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



Beautifully presented with decked terrace

A much improved and extended family home in Lincoln Road, Chuckery, Walsall, comes with a delightful rear garden. Well presented throughout and decorated in neutral shades, it is for sale through Goodchilds at offers in excess of £200,000. Close to schools, Walsall town centre and Walsall Arboretum and having ample off-road parking, this spacious semi-detached includes a pleasant entrance hall with a spindled staircase off, an extended kitchen/dining area with a breakfast bar and sliding patio doors out to a decked terrace area, a ground-floor WC, a lounge with a feature fireplace and three great-sized double bedrooms (master with en suite shower) and a family bathroom. Contact Goodchilds on 01922 711444 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



Mid-terraced in cul-de-sac



THIS mid-terraced residence in a cul-de-sac location in Clary Grove, Walsall, lies close to local amenities and transport links.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £105,000.

With double glazing and electric

heating it has a reception hall with stairs off to the first floor, a lounge with a bay window and a feature fireplace, a breakfast kitchen with a built-in oven with a four-ring gas hob with extractor over, two bedrooms, a bathroom with a coloured suite, a

front driveway with off-road parking for several cars, a rear garden with a shed.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01922 241100 or visit the website at www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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Parkview Road Bilston



- 2 bedroom end terraced house
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950

Brunei Court Bilston

NEW



- Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating TBC, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £92,500

Bruford Road Bilston

NEW



- Middle Terrace Residence
- No Upward chain
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall,

Viewing: £82,950

Havacre Lane Bilston



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- Entrance porch and hallway
- Dining room
- Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

Castlecroft Road Bilston

NEW



- End Terrace Residence with No Upward Chain
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating C, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000

Dimmocks Avenue Bilston

NEW

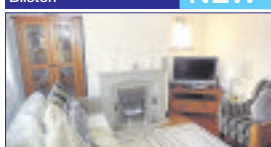


- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- No upward chain
- Lounge
- Kitchen/diner

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Lane Street Bilston

NEW



- Detached Bungalow with No Upward Chain
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Porch • Reception Hall
- Lounge & Cottage Style Kitchen,

Offer in the region of: £190,000

Moseley Road Bilston

REDUCED



- Semi Detached Residence Requiring some Modernisation
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Gipsy Lane Willenhall



- £69,950
- 2 Bedroom terraced house
- 2 Reception rooms
- Kitchen, EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £64,950

Williams Close Willenhall

NEW

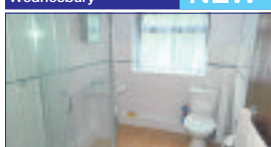


- Semi Detached Residence with No Upward Chain
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Entrance Hallway
- EPC Rating D, L Shaped Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £137,500

George Rose Gardens Wednesbury

NEW



- 1 Bedroom first floor flat
- Good size
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £50,000

Alcester Drive Willenhall

REDUCED



- Semi Detached Residence in a cul de sac location
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating (where specified)
- Entrance Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £117,000

Aston Road Willenhall

NEW



- Semi Detached Residence
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Entrance & Hallway
- EPC - F, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000

Noose Lane Willenhall

NEW



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- Requires modernizing
- No upward chain
- EPC - F, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Moseley Road Bilston

REDUCED



- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- No upward chain
- Lounge
- EPC - E, Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Warstones Road Wolverhampton

NEW



- 2 Bedroom semi detached house
- Popular location
- Lounge
- Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000

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WILLENHALL BILSTON LANE

- Greatly Extended 4 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Generous Plot, DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL STPP
- Large Lounge
- Dining Room
- Impressive Kitchen
- Bathroom, Shower Room
- 28ft Games Room

£280,000



SNEYD PARK BROCKERIDGE CLOSE

- Impressive Modern Style Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Extended Fitted Kitchen

£160,000



- Garage & Driveway
- Gas CH, Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens
- No Chain



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE

- Well Presented Modern End Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing

£130,000



- 2 En Suites
- Large Lounge With Dining Area
- Wc, • Garage, Allocated Parking Space
- Gardens



WILLENHALL QUEENS LEA

- Extended End Terrace Property
- Gas Central Heating And Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge
- Re-fitted Kitchen With Dining / Utility Area



- Guests WC
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Large Driveway
- Enclosed Rear Gardens

£129,995



WILLENHALL BEECH ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Bungalow
- No Chain
- Hall, Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms

£125,000



- Kitchen
- Re-fitted Shower Room • Gas CH
- Majority Double Glazing
- Gardens, Driveway.



WILLENHALL ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Beautifully Presented Semi Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Impressive 24ft Kitchen



- 2 Large Bedrooms
- Superb Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Excellent Gardens

£110,000



WILLENHALL LEVESON STREET

- Excellent Size Period Mid Terrace Property
- Hall, 2 Reception Rooms
- Large Kitchen, Utility Room
- Two Double Bedrooms

£90,000



- Spacious Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas CH, Rear Gardens
- No Chain



NEW INVENTION ESSINGTON RD

- Ground Floor Apartment In Popular Development.
- Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Bedroom



- Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Communal Gardens And Parking, No Upward Chain

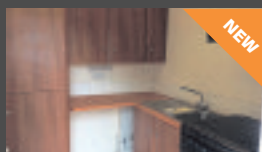
£69,950



WILLENHALL HOLMAN CLOSE

- Much Improved Ground Floor Maisonette
- Hall, Lounge, Kitchen
- Double Bedroom,
- Bathroom, Double Glaz.

£55,000



- Warm Air Heating System
- Long Lease
- No Upward Chain



WILLENHALL RAVENSCROFT ROAD

- Impressive 3 Bedroom Detached
- Lounge, Dining Room • Spacious Kitchen/diner
- Utility Room With Wc • Bathroom, En-suite
- Two Garages • Large Corner Plot Gardens

£245,000



WILLENHALL BIRCHFIELDS ROAD

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Extended Kitchen • Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory • Bathroom • Garage
- Pleasant Garden • Driveway • NO CHAIN

£235,000



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Attractive Extended 4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Extended Lounge • Conservatory
- Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen • Gas CH
- D Glaz • Large Driveway • Delightful Gardens

OFFERS OVER £230,000



BENTLEY MONMOUTH ROAD

- Much Improved 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lounge, 28ft Sun Room • Re-fitted Kitchen
- Re-fitted Shower Room • Storage Room/utility
- Double Glaz, Gas CH, Drive • Delightful Gardens

£160,000



SHORT HEATH POOLES LANE

- Period Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Two Reception Rooms • Extended Kitchen
- Bathroom • Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £100,000



WILLENHALL SHEPPWELL GREEN

- Spacious Well Presented Second Floor Flat
- Hall, Large Lounge, Spacious Kitchen
- Two Excellent Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Garage, No Chain

£75,000



WILLENHALL CADNAM CLOSE

- Modern Style 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Garage, Driveway, Front And Rear Gardens

£127,000



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property
- Hall, Lounge • Dining Kitchen, Guests Wc
- Bathroom, Double Glazing • Gas CH, Driveway
- Rear Gardens • No Upward Chain

£120,000



WILLENHALL RUGELEY AVENUE

- Much Improved 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge / Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen
- Utility, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas CH
- Driveway, Large Garden

£105,000



WILLENHALL BRICK KILN STREET

- Well Presented Semi Detached Property
- Hall, Lounge, Large Kitchen, G Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing, Driveway, Rear Gardens

£109,950



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE

- Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment
- Hall, Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms • Bathroom
- En-suite Shower Room • Allocated Parking Space

£92,000 (70% SHARE AVAILABLE)



WILLENHALL CLARKES LANE

- First Floor Apartment In A Popular Development
- Hall, Lounge With Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space
- Double Glazing, Gas CH

£80,000



Brownhills
01543 226655
 High Street, Brownhills, Walsall, WS8 6ED



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 Estate Agents & Lettings



Walsall Road, Walsall Wood
 • Three Double Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
 • Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
 • All Bedrooms with En-Suites
 • Grand Entrance Hallway
 • Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace

£450,000



Sutton Road, Park Hall
 • Five Bedroom, Detached Dormer Bungalow
 • Two Bathrooms
 • Sought After Location
 • Off Road Parking
 • Open Plan Kitchen/Diner

£400,000



Nutmeg Grove, Walsall
 • Extended Five Bedroom, Detached
 • Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
 • En-Suite
 • Utility/Guest W.C.
 • Loft Conversion
 • Garage & Off Road Parking

£319,995



Shire Lea, Shire Oak
 • Four Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow
 • Guest Cloakroom
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Family Bathroom
 • Spacious Lounge

£300,000



Bay Tree Road, Bloxwich
 • Four Bedroom, Extended Detached
 • Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
 • Garage
 • Games Room/Gym Room
 • Driveway with Ample Parking
 • Planning Permission for Loft Conversion

£299,950



West Park Close, Aldridge

- Four Bedroom, Detached
- Steam Room
- Timber Office/Games Room
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- Jacuzzi (For Sale Separately)
- Timber Office/Games Room
- Viewing Essential

£269,950



Tasker Street, Walsall
 • Four Bedroom, Town House
 • Three Stories
 • Two En-Suites
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • Garage
 • No Upward Chain

£225,000



Lincoln Road, Walsall
 • Three Double Bedrooms, Semi Detached
 • Two Storey Rear Extension
 • Delightful Rear Garden
 • Block Paved Driveway
 • Close to Several Popular Schools
 • Near to Walsall Arboretum

£200,000



Chester Road, Brownhills
 • Three Bedroom Detached
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Open plan Kitchen
 • Dining room
 • Bathroom
 • Guest WC

£200,000



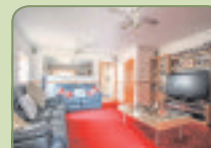
Norton Road, Pelsall
 • Three Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
 • Overlooking Pelsall Common
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • Ample Off Road Parking
 • Large Rear Garden
 • No Upward Chain

£199,950



Vernon Way, Bloxwich
 • Two/Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 • One/Two Reception Rooms
 • Fully Fitted Kitchen
 • Ground Floor Bathroom
 • Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

Offers in Excess of £195,000



Lord Street, Palfrey
 • Three Bedroom, Detached
 • Off Road Parking & Garage
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Near Wolverhampton University
 • Viewing Essential
 • No Upward Chain

£165,000



Lichfield Road, Shelfield
 • Two Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
 • No Upward Chain
 • Attractive Rear Garden
 • Block Paved Driveway
 • Excellent Transport Links
 • Refitted Kitchen/Conservatory

£164,950



NEW

Bloxwich Road, Bloxwich
 • Four Bedroom, Detached
 • Three Reception Rooms
 • Downstairs W.C.
 • Off Road Parking & Car Port
 • No Upward Chain
 • Low Maintenance Garden
 • Near to Local Shops
 • Viewing Essential

£150,000



Bute Close, Willenhall
 • Two Bedroom, Semi-Detached Bungalow
 • No Upward Chain
 • Summer Hayes Estate
 • Gas Central Heating
 • Double Glazing
 • Off Road Parking

£145,000



NEW

Lichfield Road, Bloxwich
 • Two Bedroom, Semi Detached
 • Many Original Features
 • Luxurious Bathroom
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Delightful Rear Garden
 • Close to Walsall Academy
 • Close to Bloxwich High Street
 • Off Road Parking

Offers in the Region Of



Norton East Road, Norton Canes
 • Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
 • Off Road Parking
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Close to Chasewater Park
 • No Upward Chain

£130,000



Oakridge Close, Willenhall
 • Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 • Lounge
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • Family Bathroom
 • Entrance Porch
 • Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £126,000



Tannery Court, Walsall
 • Two Bedroom, End Town House
 • Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
 • Fitted Gloss Kitchen/Diner
 • Off Road Parking
 • New Development
 • No Upward Chain

£125,000



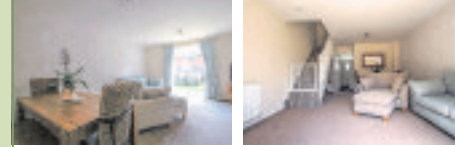
Red Lion Avenue, Norton Canes
 • Three Bedroom, Town House
 • Off Road Parking
 • Refitted Modern Kitchen
 • Chasewater Grange Nearby
 • No Upward Chain
 • Viewing Essential

Offers in Excess of £120,000



Ida Road, Walsall
 • Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
 • Investment Opportunity
 • Planning Permission to Become Flats
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Large Rear Garden
 • No Upward Chain

£120,000



Rough Brook Road, Rushall
 • Two Bedroom, Semi-Detached
 • Side Garage
 • Immaculately Presented
 • Cul-de-Sac Location
 • Fitted Kitchen

• En-Suite to Master
 • Superb Rear Garden
 • Guest W.C.
 • Delightful Rear Garden
 • Viewing Essential

£139,950



Mulberry Road, Bloxwich
 • Two Bedroom Modern Town House
 • No Upward Chain
 • Fitted Modern Kitchen
 • Family Bathroom
 • Rear Garden
 • Off Road Parking

£100,000



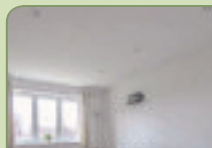
Basalt Close, Birchills
 • Two Bedrooms, Modern Town House
 • Cul-De-Sac Location
 • Off Road Parking
 • Fitted Kitchen
 • Lounge/Diner
 • No Upward Chain

£100,000



Rough Brook Road, Rushall
 • Two Bedroom, Apartment
 • Lounge/Dining Room
 • Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
 • Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

£100,000



Lapwing Close, Brownhills
 • Two Bedroom, Apartment
 • Sought After Watermead Grange Development
 • Immaculately Presented
 • En-Suite
 • Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
 • Superb Views Overlooking the Canal
 • Ideal First Time Buy/ Buy to Let

Offers in Excess of £100,000



Lichfield Road, Rushall
 • Two Bedroom, Apartment
 • Desirable Location
 • Close to Walsall Town Centre
 • Communal Parking
 • No Upward Chain
 • Viewing Essential

£95,000



Terret Close, Walsall
 • Modern Two Bedroom Apartment
 • Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
 • Secure Gated Car Park
 • Allocated Parking Space
 • Secure Communal Entrance
 • Lounge with Juliet Balconies

£92,000

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- Lichfield
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- Tamworth
- Wednesfield
- Cannock
- Stafford
- Telford
- Wolverhampton



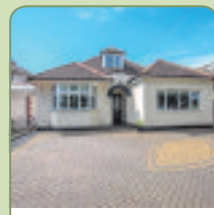
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- Coalheath Lane, Sheffield
- Three Bedroom, Link-Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Conservatory
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Delightful Rear Gardens

£260,000



- Quinton Place, Norton Canes
- Four Bedroom, Detached
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Master with En-Suite Shower Room
- Viewing Essential

£249,950

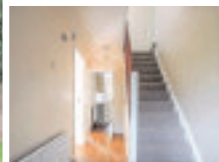


- Field Road, Bloxwich
- Four Bedroom, Detached
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- En-Suite to the Master
- Superb Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

Offers in Excess of £240,000



- Green Lane, Sheffield
- Five Bedroom, Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Garage
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Desirable Location
- No Upward Chain



£240,000



- Brownhills Road, Norton Canes
- Three Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
- Recently Refurbished
- En-Suite to the Master
- Landscaped Garden
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

Offers in Excess of £235,000



- Four Crosses Road, Sheffield
- Four Bedroom, Detached
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Room
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Ample Off Road Parking

£230,000



- Coppice Road, Walsall Wood
- Three Bedroom, Detached Bungalow
- Superb Conservatory
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Potential to Convert Garage
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Under Floor Heating
- Close to Local Shops
- Viewing Essential



Offers in Excess of £160,000



- Peelsford Road, Pelsall
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Extended
- Downstairs W.C.
- Utility

£160,000



- Mayfields Drive, Brownhills
- Three Bedroom, Detached
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Superb Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Useful Loft Space
- Viewing Essential

£155,000



- Windrush Close, Pelsall
- Three Bedroom Townhouse
- Three Storey
- Master with En-Suite
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- No Upward Chain

£150,000



- Beechtree Road, Walsall Wood
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

£139,950



- John Riley Drive, New Invention
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Extended Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Superb Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Integral Garage

£136,995



- Ravenscroft Road, New Invention
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Re-Fitted Family Bathroom

£135,000



- Ogley Road, Brownhills
- Three Bedroom, Detached
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Converted Garage
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Family Friendly Rear Garden
- Close to Primary & Secondary Schools
- Guest W.C.
- Viewing Essential

Offers in Excess of £155,000



- Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich
- Three Bedroom, Detached
- Ground Floor WC
- Spacious Lounge
- Immaculately Presented
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Close to Walsall Academy
- Close to Bloxwich High Street
- No Upward Chain



£130,000



- Irvine Road, Bloxwich
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Corner Plot
- Garage to Rear
- Two Reception Rooms
- Luxury Bathroom
- No Upward Chain

£115,000



- Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Corner Plot Location
- No Upward Chain
- Viewing Essential

£115,000



- Botany Road, Delves
- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Ideal Investment/First Time Buy
- Entrance Porch/Hall
- Conservatory
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Viewing Essential

£115,000



- Springfields, Rushall
- Three Bedroom, End-Terrace
- Well Presented Throughout
- Kitchen/Diner
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Close to Sheffield Academy
- Viewing Essential

£114,950



- Peake Road, Brownhills
- Three Bed, Terraced
- Block Paved Driveway
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- No Upward Chain

£110,000



- Somerfield Road, Bloxwich
- Three Bedroom, Terraced
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room
- Private Rear Garden
- Rear Access
- No Upward Chain

£110,000



- Littleton Road, New Invention
- Three Bedroom, Semi-Detached
- Close to New Invention School
- Overlooking Playing Fields
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Ideal First Time Buy
- Front & Rear Gardens

£110,000



- Harrison Street, Bloxwich
- Two Bedroom, Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating (Where Specified)



£87,000



- West Street, Leamore
- Two Bedroom, Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Oak Kitchen
- Immaculately Presented
- No Upward Chain
- Viewing Essential

£85,000



- Revival Street, Bloxwich
- Two Bedroom, Terrace
- Ideal First Purchase
- Refitted Kitchen
- Wet Room
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

£85,000



- West Street, Leamore
- Two Bedroom, Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Viewing Essential
- No Upward Chain

Offers in Excess of £80,000



- Howdles Lane, Brownhills
- Three Bedroom, Apartment
- Open Plan Living Space
- Balcony
- Refitted Kitchen
- Ample Car Parking Available
- Ideal First Time Buy/Buy to Let
- No Upward Chain
- Viewing Essential



£78,000

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Walsall
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SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Nutmeg Grove, Walsall
 • Impressive Detached Residence
 • Double Detached Garage
 • Sought After Development Close To Walsall Town Centre
 • Close Proximity To Popular Schools
 • Superb Kitchen/Diner

In the Region Of £374,995



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Westminster Road, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Executive Detached Residence
 • Breakfast Kitchen
 • Conservatory
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Study

In the Region Of £300,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Wood Lane Close, Willenhall
 • Detached Diner Bungalow
 • Four Double Bedrooms
 • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Charming Lounge with Open Fireplace
 • Ground Floor Shower Room
 • First Floor Bathroom

In the Region Of £275,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Mount Road, Walsall
 • Four Bedroom Detached
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
 • Utility Room
 • Garage/Study
 • Two En-Suite Bathrooms

In the Region Of £265,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lambourne Way, Cannock
 • Impressive Executive Detached
 • Four Bedrooms
 • Master Having En-Suite
 • Three Reception Rooms
 • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region Of £250,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Shire Ridge, Walsall
 • Modern Detached
 • Converted Garage
 • Conservatory
 • Block Paved Driveway
 • Four Bedrooms
 • En-Suite

In the Region Of £210,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Bamford Road, Walsall
 • Impressive Detached Residence
 • Superb Kitchen/Diner
 • Utility Room
 • Guest Cloakroom
 • Lounge
 • Luxury Refitted Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £210,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Chantry Avenue, Walsall
 • Three bedroom Semi-Detached
 • Ideal First-Time Purchase or Buy-To-Let
 • Off Road Parking
 • Lounge
 • Kitchen/Diner
 • First Floor Bathroom

In the Region Of £75,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Glastonbury Crescent, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • double glazing
 • Dining Room
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Three Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £85,000

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 MORE FOR YOUR PROPERTY**

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SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lincoln Road, Walsall
 • Deceptively Spacious Detached Home
 • Set in Delightful Grounds on a Corner Plot
 • Superb Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Three Double Bedrooms
 • Master Bedrooms with En-Suite & Walk-in

Offers in Excess of £200,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Watling Street, Walsall
 • Beautifully Refurbished
 • Superb Rear Garden
 • Luxurious Fixtures & Fittings
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Luxurious Bathroom

£180,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Bloxwich Road, Walsall
 • Refurbished Victorian Terrace
 • Two Double Bedrooms
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Through Lounge
 • Ground Floor WC
 • Refitted First Floor Bathroom

In the Region Of £90,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Hilton Close, Bloxwich
 • THREE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE
 • double glazing
 • gas central heating
 • Guest Cloakroom
 • Fitted Kitchen

£94,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Camden Street, Walsall
 • Extended Victorian Style Property
 • Many Original Character Features
 • Detached Garage & Ample Parking
 • Attractive & Private Rear Garden
 • Three Reception Rooms
 • Ground Floor Shower Room & WC

In the Region Of £164,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Hall Lane, Walsall
 • Extended Traditional Semi-Detached
 • Through Lounge
 • Extended Breakfast Kitchen
 • Off Road Parking
 • Delightful Panoramic Views to the Fore

In the Region Of £164,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Second Avenue, Walsall
 • Ideal First Time Purchase
 • Three Double Bedrooms
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Refitted Bathroom
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

In the Region Of £104,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Wallace Road, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Sought After Location
 • Close Proximity to the High Street
 • 0.7 Miles from Watling Street Primary School
 • Delightful Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region Of £110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Catches Drive, Walsall
 • Three Storey Town House
 • Garage
 • Off Road Parking
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Two En-Suites
 • Kitchen/Diner

£159,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Wrekin View, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Extended Traditional Semi-Detached
 • Through Lounge
 • Refitted Kitchen
 • Attractive Front & Rear Gardens
 • Garage

In the Region Of £145,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Lime Grove, Walsall
 • No Upward Chain
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Front & Rear Gardens
 • Close to Rushall Primary & Aldridge Sec-

£110,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Hussey Road, Walsall
 • Ideal First-Time Purchase
 • Sought After Location
 • Spacious Lounge
 • Refitted Kitchen/Diner
 • Lean-To Extension
 • Two Double Bedrooms

In the Region Of £114,950



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Warren Place, Walsall
 • Large Corner Plot
 • End of Terrace
 • Popular Cul-de-Sac location
 • Lounge with dual aspect windows
 • Kitchen
 • Utility Room

In the Region Of £115,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Cavendish Road, Walsall
 • Extended Kitchen/Diner
 • Two Reception Rooms
 • Three Bedrooms
 • Fitted Kitchen/Diner
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 • Ground Floor W.C.
 • Immaculately Presented

Offers in Excess of £115,000



SOLD
 Subject to Contract

Bloxwich Road, Walsall
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 • Refitted Bathroom

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WILLENHALL



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WILLENHALL



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It's a little disappointing when a car you've booked for a media test is delayed. But these things happen and so it did with my booking of the all road estate the SEAT Leon X-PERIENCE which had been bumped by the previous journo driving it.

It was the Leon ST Cupra – indeed a car that combines the space of a wagon (like the X-PERIENCE) but with simply superb pace. It's the fastest car SEAT has ever made. You can get hot estates that hold more behind but you simply won't get a more thrilling drive.



And now we come to the all-important drive. Apart from the fact it is extremely quick, it is also very responsive. My commute into work on winding B roads was pure



'My commute into work on winding B roads was pure pleasure, something that's not always the case mainly due to the condition of the surfaces.'

On top of all that it is a handsome looking car attracting admiring looks and also approved by my much-loved dog who lets me know in no uncertain way if he doesn't like the ride by the indignant looks as he imperiously exits a vehicle.

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Participating Retailers only. Model featured Astra Excite 14100PS Sdr in Power Red for £17,200 on the road. Price is £12,595. Offer available on orders or registrations from 2 July to October 2015, subject to availability. Offer not available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. UK-supplied vehicles only. *Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.

Mazda2, small but perfectly made-up

By Sharon Walters

There are plenty of superminis around and most of them are jolly good. If you need a small, nimble car to get around town and also to take on longer journeys in comfort, then the supermini for you could very well be the Mazda2.

It's good looking, well equipped, spacious and sophisticated. And the price tag won't make you do a double take.

Mazda2 is also an award-winner having taken this year's Car of the Year in the annual Car Dealer Power Awards, the leading motor trade title's awards decided by votes from UK car dealers, who choose the best manufacturer, models and suppliers they deal with.

It combines Mazda's unique SKYACTIV technology with its KODO: Soul of Motion design philosophy which brings new levels of technical sophistication, active safety and driving pleasure to the supermini sector. Now that sentence may sound like PR speak but it's what I actually believe.

There's a choice of 11 petrol and four diesel engines in the line-up with its signature wing front grille, predatory headlamp styling and muscular cab-rearward styling.

It has a chiseled exterior and a swish interior with more space and a bigger boot than before – all down to an 80mm increase in wheelbase. The deep boot is surprisingly spacious with 280 litres or 960 with the rear seats down. There is just about enough space to get five people in but not really for long journeys – but superminis aren't really meant for people carrying!

A plus compared to some of the opposition, and it may seem trifling but does make for better comfort, is that there's a large glovebox and pockets on the doors will hold large bottles. Even in bigger cars it is often difficult to get a small water bottle securely stowed. Another small touch, but little things can make all the difference, are the soft leather covers on the steering wheel and gearlever which add to the upmarket feel.

The dashboard is smart and neat with the large speedometer having digital readouts for the rev counter and trip computer alongside. Plus there's a first in the B-segment for the first time with a head-up display which displays your speed on the windscreen – so no excuse for getting speeding tickets. There's an easy to use "multimedia commander" between the front seats which enables the driver to control the seven-inch touch screen display system.

Improved

DAB radio features for the first time in the Mazda2 and, in SE-L Nav and Sport Nav grades, a new navigation system offers improved search features and three years of free map updates. Mazda's in-car connectivity system works with compatible iPhone and Android smartphones to access a variety of free mobile content via Aha™, a cloud platform-based service which features thousands of stations, personalised, location-based services and both Twitter and Facebook audio feeds.

Many small cars are limited in terms of ergonomics – not the Mazda2 which has an excellent adjustment range for the front seats and steering wheel and also unlike many competitors doesn't have the pedals offset. Sit squarely in the seat and you don't have to incline your legs to hit the pedals. For your rear seat passengers there's also no scrambling in thanks to its five doors – there is not a two door option.

There's an array of active safety systems which you don't normally get at this level, including anti-lock brakes, electronic brakeforce distribution, electronic brake assist, dynamic stability control, traction control system and emergency stop signalling. You also get hill hold assist and tyre pressure monitoring as standard across the entire SE-L (90ps & 105ps Diesel), Sport, Sport Nav grades and the Sports Launch Edition model get a lane departure warning system, and smart city brake support – this operates between speeds of 2.5 and 18.5mph when it automatically applies the brakes if the system detects an imminent frontal impact. Safety kit options include an auto brake function blind spot detection, high beam control that automatically dips the headlights to avoid blinding oncoming traffic and lane departure warning.

It is also great fun to drive, too, due to its low kerbweight, an agile chassis and that range of SKYACTIV engines and transmissions.

My driving experience included just about all types – motorway jaunts, hopping in and out of the traffic in the very busy city of Bath and commuting along quiet country roads to my office. And I really enjoyed every experience. The Mazda2 loves busy streets, has the capability to carry you comfortably on long trips and cope with all the luggage returning from a holiday.

A great package.



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Picture for illustration only.

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Khalsa set up FA Cup clash with AFC Wulfs

Sporting Khalsa 4 Cadbury Ath 0
KHALSA made club history by making it to the first qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time, setting up a mouthwatering clash with neighbours AFC Wulfrunians.

The man of the moment was winger Mensah Kinch whose two first half goals effectively won the match for the home side.

Cadbury hardly failed to trouble James Pemberton in the Khalsa goal, but visiting keeper Shaun Hayes came to Cadbury's rescue on 14 minutes, saving with his feet after Craig Bannister fed Marvin Nisbett.

Bannister was the provider as Khalsa broke the deadlock on 23, sliding a fine pass through the Cadbury defence which Kinch raced onto and prodded past Hayes as he came racing out.

Just before half time Kinch doubled the lead, lobbing the keeper from the edge of the box with an audacious effort which bounced in off the foot of the post.

The second half should have seen Bannister open his account, his weak header failing to trouble the keeper after 49 minutes.

But he did get the goal his efforts deserved on 67 minutes, finishing in style in a crowded penalty area.

The high point of the game for Khalsa came on 80 minutes when Rich Golding came on as substitute for Tes Robinson, his first competitive fixture for Khalsa in almost a year, before Bannister doubled his tally to round off the scoring.

Khalsa were travelling Lye on Tuesday before heading to Dudley Town on Saturday in the FA Vase, kick-off 3pm.

Spoils shared in derby match

Stourbridge 2 Rushall Olympic 2
RUSHALL twice came from behind the earn a share of the spoils in this bank holiday derby clash.

And they almost sneaked the win deep in injury time, Glassboys keeper Lewis Solly pulling off an excellent save to keep out a fierce Luke Benbow effort.

The home side broke the deadlock on 55 minutes when Chris Lait slotted home a loose ball.

Benbow hauled Rushall level on 71 minutes with a gem of a shot that cannoned off the crossbar.

Striker Kayelden Brown was one of three second half substitutes used by the Glassboys and within five minutes of taking the field he had restored their lead.

But it was all square again two minutes from time, defender Jack Duggan heading in a Jordan Fitzpatrick corner.

Olympic must settle for point

Rushall 1 Micklegate Sports
NEWLY-PROMOTED Micklegate held Olympic to an Evo-Stik Premier draw at Dales Lane.

Rushall were fortunate when Maboussa Cisse missed a sitter for Micklegate.

But the Pics struck first when Kris Taylor's free-kick was superbly volleyed in at the back post by Luke Benbow just before the half-hour.

Sports keeper Ross Atkins kept out Benbow's deflected effort with a save low down to his right and the save proved crucial as Jack Broadhead levelled after 53 minutes.

First defeat of season for Pics

Rushall 2 Matlock 3
LUKE Benbow struck twice to level after Rushall fell two down in the opening 20 minutes through a deflected Joel Purkiss effort and Niall McManus.

But Pics were level for just two minutes and tasted defeat for the first time this season as substitute Nathan Forbes fired home.

Saddlers head on to face champs

Walsall 2 Brighton 1

WALSALL continued their unbeaten start to the new season by producing an outstanding performance to send Championship outfit Brighton tumbling out of the Capital One Cup.

Goals from Milan Lalkovic and Rico Henry secured the comeback win after Brighton had gone ahead in the first half through a dubious Jake Forster-Caskey penalty.

Brighton missed another penalty in the second half, but Henry's late winner, which came in the 84th minute, was no more than Dean Smith's side deserved.

Before kick-off there was a minute's silence in

tribute to those killed in the Shoreham air crash which included employees from Brighton Football Club.

Five minutes before half-time they fell behind after Forster-Caskey won what looked to be a hugely dubious penalty.

Forster-Caskey coolly converted with the referee Bankes and his assistants then forced to endure a torrent of boos from the home crowd as they made their way off the pitch at half-time.

The second half again began in cagey fashion but Brighton almost doubled their lead when Sully March tricked his way past Henry.

Bradshaw used all his strength to brush off a Sea-

gulls defender and deliver a teasing cross which Savers dummied to allow Lalkovic to spectacularly rifle home from 18 yards.

With the Banks's Stadium rocking, Walsall went in search of another with Morris bursting his way through the middle before hitting a fierce drive which Niki Maenpaa expertly tipped over.

The Saddlers were now well on top, but Brighton were awarded a second penalty when Chris O'Grady went down following a James O'Connor challenge.

O'Grady dusted himself down to take the kick, but fired wildly over the bar.

With just four minutes remaining Smith's side grabbed the winner.

Lashings of all stars turn club tropical

THE Lashings All-Stars brought a Caribbean flavour to sunny Pelsall as Tino Best and company showed supporters just what they offer at the crease.

In a charity-supported World Squad, the Lashings side travel the United Kingdom playing local clubs and providing entertainment for keen fans.

West Indies international Best, who turned 34 on Wednesday and still plays first class cricket for Barbados, admitted he was certainly made to feel welcomed in England.

"It's most definitely a nice place to spend my birthday.

"I love England. I love the people. They're my people and always very warm and welcoming.

"I will go home at the end of the weekend and prepare for my first class games in November and I'll give it one more crack at trying to get into the West Indies team."

The fast bowler is well-known for being involved in one of the most famous sledging incidents of all time, as Andrew Flintoff told him to 'mind the windows' at Lord's when the West Indies toured England in 2004 and Best attempted to slog spinner Ashley Giles – then was stumped next ball.

Atmosphere

"Freddie will always say it's 1-1. I sledged him in Trinidad and he got me back at Lord's!" Best said.

"We're good mates – I've got a book coming out called 'Mind the Windows'."

He added: "I love the atmosphere. Sometimes cricket isn't all about the hardcore stuff. It's a gentleman's game and I can be a gentleman!

"The people are really excited to finally meet the Lashings guys. It's a better option for fans than going to Lord's or Edgbaston.

"The supporters' energy is awesome. I've been here for a few months and the energy at every single village we've been to is incredible.

"I was very happy for English cricket. I was disappointed my boy Kevin Pietersen can't get a place but I'm happy for Rooty and when Birstow came back in the team."

"England have some of the most passionate fans in the world."

Lashings won by 24 runs, with Wassim Jaffer smashing 95 not out.

Lashings are also coached by legendary West Indies batsman Gordon Greenidge and includes Best and Phillip DeFreitas in their line-up.



Test stars Tino Best, Phil DeFreitas and Gordon Greenidge with Pelsall skipper Dan Pennell

Greenidge, who played in more than 100 Test matches, scoring more than 7,000 runs, said: "It's good. We know the charity reasons why this is all happening.

"The clubs are important. It helps them and keeps them running and it's a good image that Lashings has built.

"This is what we do. We tour the country and raise funds for charity and the clubs and it's good for every-

one." Despite playing his final West Indies match in 1991 the right-hander, who succeeded Viv Richards as captain of West Indies, still misses being at the crease.

He said: "I'd prefer to be playing of course!

"It's more of a minor involvement in the sport these days.

"I can't really say how long I can see myself in this position. It all depends on one year to the next, we have lots of players wanting to play for us."

Depleted hosts draw level in local tie

Rugby

Wednesbury RUFC 20 Willenhall 20

WEDNESBURY shared the spoils with local rivals Willenhall in their first competitive game of the new season in the first round of the Staffs Intermediate Cup. But, as the away team, Willenhall claimed the match.

Local derbies are usually hard and keenly contested games this was no exception. Wednesbury were forced to play with a much weakened pack because of holiday commitments to the extent that John Cleaver had to step into the breach on his return from holiday.

Wednesbury were soon on the scoresheet with only three minutes gone with a penalty converted by Dan Till. With just 10 minutes on the clock Wednesbury increased their lead, Craig Tilley received the ball and jinxed his way through the Willenhall defence for the try, converted by Till.

Within a couple of minutes the visitors were on the scoresheet with a converted try.

At the midpoint of the first half Willenhall were in the driving seat using their superior advantage in



John Cleaver attacking the Willenhall defence

the scrum to drive Wednesbury backwards. From a collapsed scrum Willenhall were awarded a penalty successfully converted to give them the lead.

The home side never gave in, their number 9 Jack Bray like a little terrier snapping at the heels of his opposite number and tenacious in the tackle, Dale Dougthy and John Cleaver using their considerable power to drive through the Willenhall defence. From one of these excursions Willenhall infringed

and from the penalty Dan Till converted to level the scores, 13-all at half-time.

Within a few minutes of the restart the visitors were again in front using their superiority in the scrum they pushed Wednesbury backwards and in the ensuing melee Willenhall played the ball out to their winger to race over for the try, then added the conversion.

But Wednesbury showed their fighting spirit, and with an outstanding team performance, kept up the pressure. They were the better side in the later stages of the game, then into injury time their efforts paid off.

From a lineout Wednesbury won the ball played down to Chris Bartley who had only just come onto the field took the ball and drove over the line for the try and Till's conversion levelled the scores again.

Coach Gary Summers said he was very proud of his side, adding the whole team had played exceptionally well.

Manager Neil Hainse said it was an outstanding performance and showed how far the team had come in a short time.

He said the club was still looking for new players. Call him on 07950505171.

Excitement at Chelsea but plenty to do first – Smith

WALSALL boss Dean Smith admits his side's Capital One Cup draw against Chelsea has filled him with excitement.

But the Saddlers supremo says celebrations from the win over Brighton and the subsequent third round draw are now over.

"Chelsea is a fantastic draw for us, it's the champions of England coming to the Banks's Stadium," he said.

"They will bring a team packed with internationals so it's going to be a wonderful test for the players.

"It's also going to be great for me personally going up against Jose Mourinho. But there is a lot of work to do before then.

"We have had a good start to the new season and we need to keep our feet firmly on the ground. The league is the priority, there are plenty of games before Chelsea."

Smith believes last season's exploits of reaching the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy will help his team deal with the distraction. "I will make sure it doesn't become a distraction," he said.

"But the players are so determined and have learnt an awful lot over the past couple of seasons.

"We had the distraction of Wembley last season so we know what it is like to have a big occasion around the corner. Chelsea is going to be incredibly exciting.

"There is going to be a huge clamour for tickets and I'm sure the Banks's will be packed."

Meanwhile, Walsall will miss out on a further cash windfall after it was confirmed the Chelsea game will not be shown live on television.

Sky have instead opted to air Villa's clash with Birmingham.

Three see red in Lockmen's home victory

Willenhall 2 Malvern Town 0

THREE were sent off as the Lockmen clinched their first home win of the West Midlands Premier League season.

The first half ended goal-less after Adam Holliday shot wide early on and Ryan Ward fired two good efforts straight at Malvern keeper Charlie Weaver.

The second-half saw The Lockmen start brightly, Ward fired high over on 47 minutes before two minutes later he had a big say in the opening goal when he turned inside a defender and fired a low shot which hit the inside of the near post. The ball ricocheted out to Matt Dorgan who made no mistake from eight yards.

Louis Leader earned a straight red for a two footed lunge then a bad challenge was punished with only a free-kick and a scuffle broke out. Alex Carlin and Lee Bamby received straight reds for their parts.

Eight minutes into stoppage-time The Lockmen put the game to bed thanks to Eddie Wilson.

First half nap hand as Darlo are trounced

Team Dudley 5 Darlaston 0

TEAM Dudley plundered five first-half goals to inflict a first West Midlands One defeat of the season on Darlaston Town (1874). In fact, it was Town's first league defeat since April 4.

It took the hosts just three-and-half minutes to score as Ryan Spittle forced his way through the Darlaston defence to slice the ball past Chris Collins.

It was two on 17 minutes when a Nathan Jones corner curled across a packed goalmouth and struck the inside of the far post before going in.

Lee Clarke made it 3-0 with a terrific individual goal that started inside his own half.

Spittle netted his second on 37 minutes and Jones added the fifth.

Sport

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taste of cricket
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draw in derby game
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Tactics play part in club's flying start

WALSALL'S new tactical flexibility has played a major role in their flying start to the new season, according to forward Romaine Sawyers.

The Saddlers made it six straight wins following Saturday's 4-0 drubbing of crisis club Blackpool.

The team has seen Dean Smith switch between a number of different formations, with the boss reverting to a 3-5-2 system at Bloomfield Road.

And Sawyers believes the sides new found unpredictability is a great asset to have.

"The gaffer has turned into a tinker man this year with his different formations and changing players," the Saint Kitts & Nevis international said.

"You could say we have been a bit predictable in years gone by. But if we keep teams guessing then we will keep moving in the right direction."

"All the coaching staff do so much work with us Monday to Friday."

"But the players also have to take credit as they are the ones going onto the pitch and delivering."

Sawyers grabbed two goals in the win over the Tangerines with his second an early contender for goal of the season after he fired home an unstoppable strike from 30-yards.

The goal helped ensure Walsall moved to the top of the League One table, and the 23-year-old admitted it was probably the best strike of his career to date.

"I think that is my best one. I scored a good goal against Shrewsbury in the FA Cup but I think that just beats it."

"But the great thing for me is being part of this team."

"It's amazing being part of a side that keeps winning. The team spirit is great," he added.

It's Evans above as wonder save earns a point for Wood

Boldmere 2 Walsall Wood 2

AFTER these two sides had played three hours and 44 minutes without a goal the Mikes scored either side of half-time to go two ahead.

Wood halved the deficit from the restart and were back level 10 minutes later. And that's how it stayed, thanks to a stunning save from Wood keeper Lee Evans that cut short Jazz Luckie's goal celebrations.

The deadlock was broken right on half-time as a long ball forward was misjudged by a defender and Luckie capitalised.

Within 10 minutes of the second half it was 2-0 as Jack Skinner raced onto Luckie's through ball to beat the offside trap and slot past Evans.

From the restart, Wood were back in the game. A lovely ball forward from Joey Butlin into the right of the box was collected at pace by Leon Taylor, who powered his way through two challenges to score from close range.

They were level on 65 minutes as Butlin turned his marker to fire home.

A point apiece was just reward as neither side deserved to lose.

Paddock Frank over title chances



Boxer Luke Paddock

BLOXWICH'S Luke Paddock has become a regular sparring partner for Frankie Gavin to get himself fighting fit for his first Midlands title defence this week, writes Craig Birch.

The area light welterweight champion puts his crown on the line against Stoke's Andy Keates at Walsall FC tomorrow night (Friday).

The two are old rivals from their amateur days, where Keates had the edge with three wins to Paddock's two.

But 'Cool Hand' has warned his

Boxing

challenger from the Potteries he will be facing a different proposition at the Banks's Stadium come fight night.

The stylish 23-year-old has spent the past few days in the training ring with Gavin at Max McCracken's gym in Birmingham.

Paddock said: "Frankie wants me to go down there more often, he's told me I'm capable and fast which has really

given me a confidence boost. I feel like I'm holding my own with Frankie now, which shows how I am coming along."

"He's the benchmark to measure yourself against - it was a real eye opener for me."

"No disrespect, but he's miles better than Keates. If I can handle Frankie competently, I'll have no problems with him."

Fight night tickets are £30 standard and £40 stage ringside. Call Luke on 07881 376 512.

Phillips off as rivals draw blank

Heath Hayes 0 Pelsall Villa 0

THIS bank holiday derby game went one way then the other but with no real clear chances for either side.

Dale Faultless lives up to his name in the Villa goal, while there was second half controversy as Callum Phillips was sent off for Villa, leaving the visitors to finish with 10 men.

Villa entertain Bolehall Swifts on Saturday, September 5, kick off 3pm.

Nuneaton Grif 3 Pelsall Villa 1

THIS win took Griff up to second behind early runaway leaders Coventry United.

But the lowly visitors made them work hard for the victory, having a penalty saved and being unable to get the all-important goal that would have put the Heartlanders under pressure.

It took until the 36th minute for Griff to take the lead, Lee Hildeth playing a lovely diagonal ball into the left of the box to find Ryan Slinn who turned his marker before firing a cross along the edge of the six-yard box to find Keiron Brehon who gave the keeper no chance.

Villa were level within five minutes, a neat interchange wide left released Spencer Blackham down the line, his cross into the centre met by Mitchell Clarke to power in a downward header that goalkeeper Woodward got to but couldn't prevent going over the line.

Ten minutes into the second half, Brehon doubled his tally and on 67 the killer blow came when Shorthouse collected a ball forward in the centre and played a slide rule ball through the Villa defence for Danny Edmond to run on to.

Despite looking marginally offside, he went on to calmly slot the ball past Faultless.

Villa were given a lifeline on 83 minutes as Sylvester raced into the left of the box but was brought down.

After missing a penalty in midweek Villa changed their penalty taker, but Blackham saw his spot kick kept out by Woodward diving low to his right.

Promotion hopes are dealt a blow

WALSALL'S promotion credentials were dealt a blow in the Birmingham Cricket League Division One last weekend.

They were beaten by 76 runs by mid-table Himley.

Despite the visitors firing 166, Josh Bowker claiming 4-25, Walsall could only offer 90 in reply, with David Powles hitting 25 and Tim Maxwell 17.

Arfan Khan took 6-22 as Himley took 20 points, but Walsall only four.

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SADDLERS HIT THE SUMMIT

Blackpool 0 Walsall 4

YOU can stop pinching yourself Saddlers' fans. The last month has actually happened.

Unbeaten, with six wins out of seven, and Walsall top the league after ruthlessly putting crisis club Blackpool to the sword.

Things couldn't be more rosy in the Walsall garden and what better way for fans to celebrate than with three precious points, picked up on a sunny Bank Holiday weekend at the seaside.

Make no mistake about it, Walsall - for 70 minutes at least - were outstanding at Bloomfield Road.

But while the performance rightly had fans purring, it is the collective group effort and the tactical nous shown by Dean Smith this season that is the real cause for optimism.

Everything Smith touches turns to gold at the minute, as he continues to tinker with systems to ensure success. For the sixth time in seven games, the boss made two changes to his starting line-up.

Bench

And it was a massive call with Milan Lalkovic - outstanding against Brighton and Coventry - forced to make do with a place on the bench as Walsall reverted to 3-5-2. In his place returned Romaine Sawyers with devastating effect as he notched a double - the second a terrific long-ranger into the top corner.

The formation worked to perfection with wing-backs Rico Henry and Jason Demetriou both outstanding.

Demetriou, who also grabbed an assist for Sawyers' opener, was particularly impressive, with his whipped in cross for Walsall's third met perfectly in the air by Sam Mantom. The other goal came via an own goal from Tom Aldred.

But in truth it could have been five or six. Tom Bradshaw rattled the post and Demetriou went close with a fierce volley.

"It was men against boys," admitted Blackpool boss Neil McDonald, who must crave the stability and team understanding that Smith has now built at the Banks's.



Saddlers players congratulate Romaine Sayers on his second goal at Bloomfield Road

Boss Smith hails hunger of his players

BOSS Dean Smith has hailed the hunger and desire of his players after Walsall hit top spot in League One.

Ahead of a trip to Morecambe on Tuesday in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, Smith is adamant his side has what it takes to keep on winning.

"It's very pleasing to be top and to win six games in a row

is an achievement in itself," the manager said. "The players are starting to realise there is a proper team here that can go on and do things."

"Can we stay top of the table? That is the big question now."

"But there is a real hunger and a desire in these players to get better and better. They want to be successful. I can see

that desire in the players' eyes. They want to keep winning football matches."

But he says it's the players who really deserve the credit.

He added: "Tactically these players are very astute. That is a really pleasing aspect of our game at the moment."

"We can increase the tempo to attack and we look a threat."



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